1941

NAME	RACE	CITY	COUNTY	STATE	DATE
Bruce Tisdale	N	Andrews	Georgetown	South Carolina	2-15-41
Robert Melker	N		Gaston	North Carolina	4-13-41
Robert Sapp	N	Blakely	Early	Georgia	5-6-41
A. C. Williams	N	Quincy	Gadsen	Florida	5-13-41

CAUSES OF LYNCHINGS CLASSIFIED
1882-~~1968~~ 1941

YEAR	HOMICIDES	FELONIOUS ASSAULT	RAPE	ATTEMPTED RAPE	ROBBERY AND THEFT	INSULT TO WHITE PERSONS	ALL OTHER CAUSES
1882	54	0	33	0	16	0	10
1883	71	0	24	3	4	0	28
1884	62	0	36	0	10	0	103
1885	91	2	28	0	1	0	62
1886	70	1	32	0	8	0	27
1887	54	0	41	0	6	0	19
1888	62	0	31	0	3	4	37
1889	73	1	34	6	10	1	45
1890	35	0	31	2	5	0	23
1891	58	14	39	2	12	1	58
1892	93	3	49	12	15	1	58
1893	60	2	34	4	8	2	41
1894	75	1	37	12	5	1	61
1895	68	0	34	13	7	0	57
1896	39	6	35	6	6	0	31
1897	67	2	26	9	14	2	38
1898	68	7	15	6	8	2	14
1899	43	2	17	9	7	1	27
1900	43	5	21	16	7	1	22
1901	51	7	17	8	10	0	37
1902	37	6	18	12	2	0	17
1903	50	7	15	8	0	1	18
1904	37	1	15	7	0	2	21
1905	32	3	11	7	2	0	7
1906	25	7	16	10	2	1	4
1907	16	7	12	12	4	1	8
1908	35	8	15	14	3	1	21
1909	46	5	14	5	3	4	5
1910	41	3	18	5	4	2	3
1911	36	3	6	7	3	4	8
1912	34	2	11	3	4	3	6
1913	25	4	7	3	1	1	11
1914	30	7	6	1	2	1	5
1915	26	9	11	6	9	3	3
1916	21	7	3	9	8	2	4
1917	7	3	7	6	1	6	8
1918	27	3	10	6	5	2	11
1919	29	8	9	10	1	7	19
1920	23	9	15	3	0	3	8
1921	19	8	16	3	0	3	15
1922	15	5	14	5	4	2	12
1923	5	5	6	1	1	2	13
1924	4	2	5	2	0	3	0
1925	8	1	4	2	0	1	1
1926	13	3	2	3	1	1	7
1927	7	2	3	3	0	0	2
1928	5	2	3	0	0	0	1
1929	1	3	3	0	0	2	1
1930	5	0	8	2	3	0	3
1931	5	3	0	5	0	0	0
1932	1	2	1	1	0	1	2
1933	8	4	3	3	1	1	8
1934	2	2	2	4	1	3	1
1935	8	1	3	3	0	1	4
1936	1	0	3	3	0	1	0
1937	4	2	1	0	1	0	0
1938	3	0	1	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	1,928	200	910	282	228	82	1,056
1939	2						1
1940				1	1		3
1941				1	1		2
	1,930	200	910	284	228	83	1,062

Compiled by Monroe N. Work
Department of Records and Research
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

LYNCHINGS, WHITES AND NEGROES, BY PERIODS

1882 to [redacted] 1941

PERIODS	WHITES	NEGROES	TOTALS
1882-1886	475	301	776
1887-1896	548	1,035	1,583
1897-1906	146	884	1,030
1907-1916	62	608	670
1917-1926	44	419	463
1927-1936	14	136	150
1937-1941	2	24	26
TOTALS	1,289	3,397	4,686
[redacted]	1,291	3,407	4,698

Compiled by [redacted]
Department of Records and Research
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

1941

NGHAM AGE-HERALD,

JULY 9, 1941

NO LYNCHLESS YEAR, NAACP REPORT SAYS

C. O. ——

Association Points To 4 Mobbings In State Of Georgia

May 14, 1940

NEW YORK—Refuting the statement released Thursday, May 9, by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, that the period from May 9, 1939 to midnight, May 8, 1940, may be regarded as a "Lynchless Year," the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People pointed to three lynchings, all of which took place in Georgia during the month of March, 1940 as evidence that this period was by no means barren of this crime.

The story of these lynchings appeared in the April 6, 1940 issue of the Nation Magazine.

The list includes one woman and two men (all white). All were beaten to death by mobs, dominated by or made up of members of the Ku Klux Klan. All the lynchings took place in or near Atlanta, Ga. The list and the dates when the lynchings occurred follow:

Sarah Rawls, March 2; Benton Ford, March 2; Ike Gaston, a white barber, March 7. Miss Rawls and Ford were taken from their parked automobile in a "lovers' lane" and charged with immorality. Gaston was charged with drinking too much.

Association officials also pointed out that the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Fulton county, Ga., grand jury had revealed that some 30 persons in this area have been beaten by mobs and the Ku Klux Klan during the past 12 months.

Unpublicized Lynchings

The manner in which lynching statistics may be distorted to give aid and comfort to southern reactionaries who "scream of states' rights," and tell us that "lynching is dying out," was revealed by Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in a speech before a mass meeting held in Louisville, Ky., Friday, May 4, four days prior to the announcement made by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching to the effect that the period from May 8, 1939 to May 9, 1940 represents a "lynchless year."

New Technique

Lynching is not dying out," the lawyer said, "Lynchers have merely adopted the subcommittee technique. Instead of a large, noisy mob, a small group of five or six persons now kidnap the victim and maim or kill him. If it is a killing party, the body is sunk in water with heavy weights. Those kind aren't reported and so they tell us that lynching is dying out."

Marshall was referring to a report published in January of this year, entitled "Lynching Goes Underground," which reveals a southern white N.A.A.C.P. investigator's story of how lynch victims are done away with quietly by a few persons instead of by mobs.

"Not A Lynching"

The News and Observer, of Raleigh maintains that the killing of a Negro in North Carolina, which was classified by Tuskegee Institute as one of three lynchings in the first six months of 1941, was not in fact a lynching.

"This murder, which took place in Gaston County last April," says *The News and Observer*, of which Jonathan Daniels is editor, "can only by distortion be called a lynching. Its description as a lynching makes all other killings everywhere, so classified, suspect as to their true character. Its listing as a lynching does a serious injustice to the Southern state which has had fewer true lynchings across all the years than any other.

"Here was a case in which four white hoodlums in the town of Cherryville went on a rampage in which they killed a Negro man. There was absolutely no feeling in the community against the Negro. He was merely the victim of a bunch of drunks. Within 24 hours all of the four white men were arrested and in jail. Within 10 days they had been tried and sentenced to long terms in the penitentiary . . ."

The newspaper reports that the shooting followed a rock fight which grew out of an argument.

If the facts in this case are as represented by *The News and Observer*, it seems to *The Age-Herald*, too, that this killing should not have been classified as a lynching and that the fight against lynching is impeded, rather than helped, by so classifying this crime.

As *The News and Observer* says, "calling such a case a lynching will not help eliminate lynchings but it will help to destroy the value of these statistics in the propaganda against lynching and everywhere else."

* * *

While the term lynching has widely varying definitions in the minds of honestly differing persons, it does, in common understanding, we think, stand for a kind of killing quite different from the sort developing out of circumstances like those reported by *The News and Observer*.

The common understanding of lynching, when the victim is a Negro, involves, we think, racial hatred or prejudice. Moreover, as we have suggested before, the average idea of a lynching conceives of a killing carried out by a group under some moral pretext of service to justice, race, tradition.

Now it can be argued with some force, we believe, that this particular killing might not have taken place if the victim had not been a Negro and that the slayers were probably inflamed by racial feeling and may have felt that they were upholding their own race. But such a conception, we think, would give too much weight to elements that eventually may have entered the incident and too little weight to preceding elements, such as the drunkenness of the convicted men.

It can be argued that racial feeling probably was latent all the time in this instance and under provocation showed itself. But we think it more likely that intoxication and violent temper were the factors against which the main blame should be assessed, rather than racial feeling, which might, to be sure, be provoked at any place, anywhere, just as violent feelings might be provoked between men of the same race.

* * *

Of course, everyone has a right to his own definition. And it is true that racial feeling might come to be a large factor in a crime growing out of events originally not bearing particularly on race. Moreover, it is extremely important that actual mob violence not be covered up under some other name and that every effort be made to prevent suppression of the facts in [illegible]

be remembered that the purpose of publicity directed against lynching is to further the fight to eliminate this terrible evil. This fight will not be furthered by classifying as a lynching any case which does not come within the general understanding of that term.

It should be remembered also that lynching is conceived in the average mind as a crime carried out under pretext of high motivation of one kind or another. A killing growing out of a fight involving drunken men, whose drunkenness rather than a crime or other alleged wrongdoing attributed to the victim, seems to have been the main originating factor, does not come within this generally-held concept.

We well realize that lynching can be defined in various ways both with intelligence and good faith. We have every confidence in the good faith and intelligence of Tuskegee Institute's lynching research and statistics. The institute's long and valuable service in this regard has been characterized by realism, conservatism and wisdom. But it does seem to us, on the face of *The News and Observer's* account of this case, that an error has been made.

Twelve Months Without a Lynching

The record of a year without a lynching is one of which the South may be proud. It would be interesting to know just what factors contributed to such a strengthening of respect for the law.

Undoubtedly the lynching evil was fostered to a considerable extent by fear that despicable criminals would escape punishment, but the chief factor was the mob spirit.

Education has played its part, together with such organizations as the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and the interracial committees for promoting tolerance and mutual forbearing.

Every attempt to obtain enactment of a Federal anti-lynching law has ended in failure. This proposed legislation sought to curb the evil by imposing heavy penalties on public officials who refused or neglected to protect prisoners or other suspected persons from mob violence.

This twelvemonth showing encourages the hope that lynching may be stamped out by the force of aroused public opinion, thus permanently ending a national disgrace.

Phila Inq
07/13/40

1941

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Phila Inq
07/13/40

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED OR REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY

6671

St. Petersburg, Fla. Independent
May 14, 1941

Man Who Lynched Negro Not Known, Jurors Report

Quincy, May 14.—AP—State Attorney Orion C. Parker Jr. prepared today a preliminary report for Governor Holland on the lynching of A. C. Williams, 22 year old negro who was shot to death near here early Tuesday.

His preliminary report to the governor will be submitted either today or tomorrow and will include a stenographic report of the two-hour inquest, Parker declared. The coroner's jury said merely that Williams was killed by "parties unknown."

CHICAGO ILL DAILY NEWS
SATURDAY MAY 17 1941

A FLORIDA LYNCHING

Pegler Comments on Law in Backwoods

BY WESTBROOK PEGLER.

NEW YORK, May 17.—According to the newspaper accounts, the lynching of a Negro in a little town in northwestern Florida a few nights ago was an episode which, for bestiality, could be matched only in cultural exercises of the super-race of Adolf Hitler.



WESTBROOK PEGLER.

Suspected but not yet formally accused of criminal assault on a white child, the victim was roped to a tree, shot and left for dead, but crawled to a refuge and there was recaptured by a law officer. He then apparently was surrendered without a struggle to a mob which finished him off.

The section of the country in which this horror occurred is in the social and intellectual slum which, according to the hearsay historians of Florida, was populated by low whites who fled from the other southern states, notably Georgia and Alabama, to escape service in the Civil War, and the white population is distinguished from the Negroes only in the matter of complexion and other racial characteristics.

It should be easy to catch and convict all the murderers, but any serious attempt to do so probably would result in either local revolution or such a farce as would further discredit the law and civilization.

State a Frontier Area.

Many areas of Florida are civilized only in a few outward appearances, for the state still consists largely of frontier and backwoods, and we deceive ourselves imagining that frontiersmen and backwoodsmen are all brave, chivalrous characters. The robbers and killers of the Old West, glamorized in song and story out of all resemblance to their disgusting and dirty criminal characters, were, in fact, no better than the common city gunman or the backwoods lyncher of today.

Florida is an adolescent, irresponsible and, thus far, incorrigible state whose most respected political and civic leaders in the urban areas have frankly insisted that it is necessary, in the interests of progress and prosperity, to connive at crime and build on vice and official corruption. Knowing, for example, that a gambling house cannot operate openly without the corrupt consent of the local officials, many of these leaders hold, nevertheless, that if gambling were put down the tourists would go elsewhere and business would suffer.

In the crude back country the conditions of life are primitive, and habitations may be seen from the highway in which there are neither panes nor screens to the windows, and creatures having the physical appearance of human being live in such squalor as to revolt the very buzzards.

Men Degrade Themselves.

It is not to scold the people or the state that such observations are made, but rather to indicate how it can be that white men, claiming to be members of a superior breed, can so degrade themselves and embarrass the race in which they hold technical membership in an effort to impress their superiority on their Negro neighbors. Ignorance and brutality die hard and slowly in certain strains of Florida Caucasians and resist such refinements as electric signs, the radio, plumbing and paving, even on the luxury coast of the Atlantic.

Only two years ago, in one of the oldest and most sedate cities of the coast, a community where wealth abounds and books have been reported, a Negro taximan ran down a white child in a traffic accident and was taken from the hands of the law by relatives of the deceased and shot under the law of flight in the presence of a little party of shocked and frightened tourists. This was duly listed as a lynching in the annual score, whereas it was plainly a common, premeditated murder which could have been punished by the death penalty if the morality and the public opinion had existed.

No Excuse for Lynching.

There is never any reason or excuse for the lynching of a Negro in Florida, and it must be added that the worse the crime the less the white man need concern himself about a miscarriage of justice. In the most recent case the prisoner would have got his promptly and in full measure had the law been allowed to take its course, but the killers doubtless were afraid that on his trial the accused might prove his innocence or, import from the North some lawyer who would demonstrate that the victim tempted him and, anyway, that he wasn't in the state of Florida at the time but studying in class at the College of the City of New York.

Civilization can't be hurried in the Florida swamps and backwoods, on either the whites or the Negroes. Each degrades the other, but the white man has moments when he can really show the Negro a very recognizable stump of the tail by which his not so remote ancestors swung from tangled vines amid the stunted trees.

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37a-19[illegible] 1941

New York [illegible]
New York, N. Y.

FLORIDA

6672

Florida Mob Lynches Negro After Taking Him From Ambulance

MAY 24 1941

MAY 24 1941

QUINCY, Fla.—A. C. Williams, 34, arrested for attempted assault on a twelve year old white girl, was found dead soon after daybreak Wednesday on a creek bridge, his body riddled with bullets.

Discovery of the lynched Negro's body brought about an immediate investigation by the State with Governor Spessard L. Holland demanding a detailed report of Sheriff M. P. Luten and State Attorney Dixon C. Parker, neither of whom had any clues or had made any arrests, according to their statements.

Four masked men, armed with pistols, took the Negro from the county jail on Monday after forcing Dan Davis, an officer, to open the cell doors. The next that was seen of the Negro was when his body was found severely wounded by pistol bullets, blows on the head and other injuries at a home of a friend.

MAY 24 1941

Sheriff Luten and his party put the victim into an ambulance to take him to a Tallahassee hospital, twenty-five miles away. Five miles from Quincy, a masked band stopped the ambulance and removed the man. His body was found five hours later.

Sheriff Luten told the Governor no extra men had been on guard at the prison because there had been no indications of violence. The ambulance was also unguarded.

MAY 24 1941

On Monday, the Negro had been tied to a tree and made a target for bullets. The rope that bound him, apparently, was severed by a shot, allowing him to escape after the lynchers had left. No formal charge had been lodged against him.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Mob Lynches Colored Rape Suspect As Jury Frees White Rapist On Bond

MAY 24 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Last week while a Florida mob was making good its second attempt to lynch a 22-year-old youth suspected of assaulting a 12-year-old girl, a Washington grand jury was telling Frank W. Jacobs, 43, white, that he could have his freedom under $2,000 bond pending trial on a charge of attacking a six-year-old colored girl.

MAY 24 1941

Jacobs is alleged to have taken the granddaughter of Mrs. Susie A. Bowan into the woods near Union Market and attacked her on April 28. A medical examination supported the assault charge. Thomas J. Quarles, 13, told the jurors that he saw the girl get into the white man's car and be driven away. He noted the make of the machine and told older persons.

Jacobs was picked from a police line-up of five men by the girl and by the grandmother as the man she had seen in the neighborhood on several occasions. At one time during the investigation, Jacobs is reported to have cursed the grandmother and had to be shut up by police.

The white man denies that he was in the neighborhood on the day of the crime. He said that he had been drinking and had a slight accident in another section. He started for police but remembering that he was under the influence of liquor went home to bed where police found him.

He is alleged to have kept the child away from home for nearly two hours after buying her some candy at a grocery store just after she got into his machine. Jacobs is reported to be a government employe and father of three children.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Fifth Lynching Of Year Occurs In Florida

QUINCY, Fla. — (ANP) — Gov. Spessard L. Holland has demanded a full investigation of the lynching, Tuesday of A. C. Williams, 22, fifth to be reported this year. Sherriff M. P. Luten Parker said they had made no arrests and held no clues to identify the slayers of the man who was twice attacked.

Williams, arrested Sunday on a charge of raping a 12-year-old white girl, was found shot to death, Tuesday a few hours after a band of men seized him in a second lynching attempt after the first had failed. The slain man was taken from the Gadsden county jail, Monday evening by four white men, masked and armed with pistols, who locked officer Dan Davis in a jail cell.

Late Monday night Sherriff Luten and other officers found Williams severely wounded by pistol bullets and blows on the head, at a residence near here. They placed him in an ambulance for transfer to a hospital in Tallahassee 25 miles away. Five miles out of Quincy a masked band stopped the ambulance and removed Williams. His body riddled with bullets was found after daylight on a creek bridge north of Quincy.

Will Webb, driver of the ambulance said that when the band stopped him "one of them said they wanted that man I had in the ambulance, and they didn't want trouble."

"I told them they wouldn't get any trouble out of me because I didn't even have a pocket knife."

Neither Webb nor the assistants riding with him was harmed.

Serriff Luten explained that no extra guard had been placed over the prisoner at the jail because there had been no indication of any mob violence. The ambulance from which Williams was later taken was not guoarded either. Luten said: "I didn't expect any trouble of any kind."

Several witnesses said the band of men wore black hoods each time Williams was seized. The coroner's jury found Williams met death "at the hands of unknown persons."

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

LYNCH PROBE ORDERED BY GOV. HOLLAND

Florida Sheriff Has Found No Clues to Slayers of A. C. Williams

MAY 23 1941

QUINCY, Fla.—(ANP)—Gov. Spessard L. Holland has demanded a full investigation of the lynching May 13 of A. C. Williams, 22, who was left for dead by one mob before being fatally shot by a second.

Sheriff M. P. Luten and State's Attorney Orion C. Parker have made no arrests because they said they have no clues to the identity of the slayers.

A coroner's jury found that Williams met death "at the hands of unknown persons." Several witnesses said the band of men who seized Williams from an ambulance wore black hoods.

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MAY 23 1941

Say Lynchers Aided Nazis

NEW YORK.—The lynchers of A. C. Williams at Quincy, Fla., on May 13, gave aid to the Nazis and betrayed their country, declared the N.A.A.C.P. to President Roosevelt in a letter registering a protest against the crime.

After voicing its protest and asking for positive action by the President and the Department of Justice, the letter declared:

"We are concerned with lynching as it relates to the aims of our national defense effort. You have said that every man, woman and child has a stake in this effort.... You have pictured the struggle as one to preserve the democratic freedoms against the assault of the forces of oppression, brutality and death.

"In this immense effort our country is weakened morally and physically by the lynchers who kill at their whim, and by officers of the law who make no effort to protect their prisoners or to arrest the lynchers. Into the hands of Virginia Gayda and Paul Joseph Goebbels the Florida mob and all other mobs have thrust the answer to America's protestations and actions in the international conflict.

"A pronouncement from the Chief Executive on this crime would hearten those Americans who abhor lynching and who stand defenseless before the gibes of those who regard our country's defense philosophy as hypocritical."

Christian Index
Jackson, Tennessee

FLORIDA STRIKES A BLOW FOR DEMOCRACY'S FOES

MAY 22 1941

No missing detail exists to mar Nazi enjoyment of Tuesday's lynching in Florida or to deny the voices of those among us who sneer at a democracy which can countenance such crimes.

We may rest assured that each dreadful item will be made known wherever our enemies may use it to cast discredit upon the good faith of our professions. We may console ourselves with the thought that this crime now is isolated and of increasingly happy rarity. Our enemies will grant us no such comfort. Wherever their voices reach this bestial and cruel tale will be told to prove how far the noble professions of democracy are separated from its shameful deeds.

Most of us will continue to live and die in the faith that all men are equal in their right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness of which this Negro was so brutally deprived. Most of us will continue to pledge our belief in the great documents of freedom to which we as a nation stand committed. But the men of Quincy in Florida have given the lie to all our words. They have handed to the enemies of all that we love and most deeply believe the powerful weapon of this brutal act.

NOTE: The above is a significant editorial which appeared in the *Courier Journal*, the leading white daily of Louisville, Ky.—Editor.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

SEIZED SECOND TIME BY GANG, SHOT TO DEATH

QUINCY, Fla., May 22—A. C. Williams, 22 year old Negro charged with assaulting a 12 year old white girl, was found shot to death last week several hours after a band of men seized him in a second lynching attempt when the first had failed.

"We found him on his back, where he apparently had been dropped by bullets fired into his body," Sheriff M. P. Luten said. No arrests have been made in the case, and Sheriff Luten said "we have virtually no clews to work on."

The slain man's body was found on a bridge over a creek five miles north of here.

First Seized at Jail

The first lynching attempt came in the evening when four white men armed with pistols locked Officer Dan Davis in a cell at the Gadsden County jail and took Williams with them.

Williams was found shortly after midnight at a Negro residence near here, Sheriff Luten said, with eight or ten bullet wounds in his body" and badly beaten about the head.

Luten said "undoubtedly an attempt was made to lynch him" and his attackers left him for dead. A physician here said Williams had a fairly good chance to recover, so the prisoner was put in an ambulance to be taken to a hospital at Tallahassee, about 25 miles west of Quincy.

Luten said he assumed the Negro's attackers believed him dead and, therefore, he anticipated no further trouble and sent the ambulance out without a special guard.

Pulled Out of Ambulance

About five miles from Quincy, Luten said, the vehicle was forced to a halt by "four or five men" and the wounded man was pulled out and taken away.

Will Webb, Negro operator of the ambulance, said: "One of them said they wanted the man I had in the ambulance, and they didn't want any trouble. I told them they wouldn't get any trouble out of me, because I didn't even have a pocket knife."

Webb said the men did not harm him or his assistants and he did not recognize any of them.

Williams was unable to give any clews to the identity of his first attackers, Sheriff Luten said, and Officer Davis was also unable to say who they were.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

PROTEST NOTE SENT CAPITAL

MAY 24 1941

Asks Positive Action By President, Dept. Of Justice

The lynchers of A. C. Williams at Quincy, Fla., on May 12 gave aid to the Nazis and betrayed their country declared the N. A. A. C. P. to President Roosevelt in a letter registering a protest against the crime.

After voicing its protest and asking for positive action by the President and the Department of Jusice, the letter declared:

"We are concerned with lynching as it relates to the aims of our national defense effort. You have said that every man, woman and child has a stake in this effort. . . You have pictured the struggle as one to preserve the democratic freedoms against the assault of the forces of oppression, brutality and death.

"In this immense effort our country is weakened morally and physically by the lynchers who kill at their whim, and by officers of the law who make no effort to protect their prisoners or to arrest the lynchers. Into the hands of Virginio Gayda and Paul Joseph Goebbels the Florida mob and all other mobs have thrust the answer to America's protestations and actions in the international conflict.

"A pronouncement from the Chief Executive on this crime would hearten those Americans who abhor lynching and who stand defenseless before the gibes of those who regard our country's defense philosophy as hypocritical."

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

YEAR'S FIFTH LYNCH CASE STIRS ACTION

MAY 24 1941

NAACP Makes Protest; Gov. Of Florida Orders Investigation

QUINCY, Fla.—The lynching of A. C. Williams, 22, the fifth lynching reported this year, caused great stir in state official circles and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, this week. Governor Spessard L. Holland demanded a full investigation into the affair after Sheriff M. P. Luten and State's Attorney Orion C. Parker said they had made no arrests and had no clues to identify the slayers of the man who was attacked twice.

Declaring that the lynchers of Williams gave aid to the Nazis and betrayed their country, the N.A.A.C.P. registered a protest against the crime in a letter to President Roosevelt.

After voicing its protest and asking for positive action by the President and the Department of Justice, the letter said:

"We are concerned with lynching as it relates to the aims of our national defense effort. You have said that every man, woman and child has a stake in this effort . . . You have pictured the struggle as one to preserve the democratic freedoms against the assault of the forces of oppression, brutality and death.

"A pronouncement from the Chief Executive on this crime would hearten those Americans who abhor lynching and who stand defenseless before the gibes of those who regard our country's defense philosophy as hypocritical."

MAY 24 1941

Williams, arrested Sunday, May 11, on a charge of raping a 12-year-old white girl, was found shot to death Tuesday, May 13, a few hours after a band of men seized him in a second lynching attempt after the first had failed. The slain man was taken from the Gadsden county jail Monday evening by four white men, masked and armed with pistols, who locked officer Dan Davis in a jail cell.

Late Monday night Sheriff Luten and other officers found Williams severely wounded by pistol bullets and blows on the head, at a residence near here. They placed him in an ambulance for transfer to a hospital in Tallahassee 25 miles away. Five miles out of Quincy a masked band stopped the ambulance and removed Williams. His body riddled with bullets was found after daylight on a creek bridge north of Quincy.

Will Webb, driver of the ambulance, said that when the band stopped him "one of them said they wanted that man I had in the ambulance, and they didn't want any trouble.

"I told them they wouldn't get any trouble out of men because I didn't even have a pocket knife."

Neither Webb nor the assistants riding with him were harmed.

Sheriff Luten explained that no extra guard had been placed over the prisoner at the jail because there had been no indication of any mob violence. The ambulance from which Williams was later taken was not guarded either. Luten said: "I didn't expect any trouble of any kind."

Several witnesses said the band of men wore black hoods each time Williams was seized. The coroner's jury found Williams met death "at the hands of unknown persons."

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FLORIDA

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Christian Index
Jackson, Tennessee

ANOTHER LYNCHING

THE body of A. C. Williams, a 22 year old Colored man who had been arrested in Quincy, Florida for a purported attempted rape upon a 12 year old white girl last week was found on a creek bridge near that city. On the day before four masked men, armed with guns, took the Negro from the county jail after compelling the officer of the law to open the cell. At midnight the body of Williams was found in a farm house with bullets and blows on his head. He was placed in an ambulance for transfer to a Tallahassee hospital twenty-five miles away. Five miles from Quincy a mob stopped the unguarded ambulance, which was driven by Will Webb, a Colored man, and removed the wounded prisoner and proceeded to shoot him to death.

And so lynching, the "purely white American Institution," continues to be practiced. It is the same old story "by masked men; no one apprehended; the governor calls upon the sheriff and state's attorney; "they find no clews," and the matter passing into history with nothing done.

MAY 22 1941

We condemn such crimes as was charged, *if true,* with all of the resentment that is in us, and would like to see such offenders brought to trial. On the other hand we denounce with all that is in us the spirit of mob violence, *and it is true,* and pray God that some day "white America" will labor as hard to make America as "safe for her loyal citizens" as it seems so anxious to make the world "Safe for Democracy." Somehow there is a difference in making the "World Safe for Democracy" and making "America Safe for Hypocrisy."

New Masses
New York, N. Y.

Florida Lynching Season

MAY 27 1941

THE men who lynched A. C. Williams, twenty-two-year-old Florida Negro, had a grim motto: if at first you don't succeed, try, try again. They tried it first by dragging him from the jail, beating and shooting him. When that didn't succeed, they took him from the ambulance on the way to the hospital and finished the job. "Nobody knows" who did the lynching. It's a very familiar story—as old as the "rape" charge on which Williams was jailed. The deputy sheriff at the Gadsden County prison, who was "forced" to turn over the prisoner, just didn't recognize the lynchers. The ambulance driver happened not to know any of them. And Sheriff Luten made no attempt to find them when Williams came back to the jail after the first attempt on his life. The sheriff felt that he had done his duty by starting the wounded man off to Tallahassee in an ambulance; he didn't go so far as to provide any protection by law enforcement officials. And apparently he feels it is futile to make any search for the lynchers now. Nor is the sheriff likely to be moved by the delicate little reprimands in "respectable" editorial columns. The Anti-Lynching Bill, which those editorials do not mention, is still being firmly sat upon by congressional poll-taxers whose "white supremacy" the sheriff is hired to protect. He can trust them to protect him in MAY 27 1941 Senator Pepper of Florida is too busy furthering "war against fascism" to do anything about the fascists in his home state. Only the people's insistence will turn the Anti-Lynching Bill into law.

Pathfinder
Washington, D. C.

STATES & CITIES

In New York City women outnumber men, the Census Bureau reports. New York has 97.8 males for every 100 females. The "more women" ratio prevails in six other big New York State cities . . . • Florida religious groups are vigorously opposing a proposed change in the state divorce law to increase the number of grounds for divorce from nine to 1941 Florida already has a MAY 24 1941 residence law, designed to take the "divorce business" away from Reno, Nev. . . . • The first lynching of 1941 occurred in Gadsden County, Fla., when A. C. Williams, Negro suspect in an attempted assault case, was taken from an ambulance and shot. He was on his way to a hospital after having been previously seized from jail, shot and left for dead . . . • As usual, Mayor Frank Hague of Jersey City, N. J., was elected by a large majority, for his seventh term. MAY 24 1941 In San Antonio, Tex., Mayor Maury Maverick and his predecessor and present opponent, C. K. Quin, were forced into a run-off election. Former Congressman Maverick trailed Quin by several thousand votes, but the latter failed to win a majority.

Jacksonville, Fla. Journal
May 13, 1941

ACCUSED NEGRO IS TAKEN FROM GADSDEN JAIL

Wounded, He's Seized Again While in Ambulance

BULLETIN

QUINCY, Fla., May 13.—(AP)—The bullet-riddled body of A. C. Williams, 22-year-old negro charged with assaulting a 12-year-old white girl, was found today on the Withlacooche creek bridge, five miles north of Quincy, several hours after a band of men seized him in a second lynching attempt when the first had failed.

QUINCY, Fla., May 13—(AP)—Sheriff's officers hunted today for the bullet-riddled body of A. C. Williams, 22-year-old negro, twice seized by an armed band of men after his arrest for attempted assault upon a 12-year-old white girl.

Whether the negro is dead or alive remained to be determined. Sheriff M. P. Luten directed the search for him.

The negro was taken early today from an ambulance while en route to a hospital at Tallahassee for treatment of bullet wounds inflicted Monday after four men took him out of the Gadsden county jail by forcing Officer Dan Davis to unlock the jail cells.

Will Webb, negro operator of the ambulance, said "four or five men" stopped him between Quincy and Tallahassee.

"One of them said they wanted the man I had in the ambulance, and they didn't want any trouble," Webb said. "I told them they wouldn't get any trouble out of me, because I didn't even have a pocket-knife."

MEN NOT RECOGNIZED

Webb said the men did not harm him or his assistants. He did not recognize any of them.

Williams was not guarded by officers on the Tallahassee trip.

After being removed from the jail, in what Sheriff Luten said was "obviously a plan to lynch him," Williams was found about midnight at a negro residence outside Quincy. The sheriff reported he had "eight or ten bullet holes in his body, and had been clubbed about the head."

He was not in condition to give officers any information, Sheriff Luten said.

DIDN'T EXPECT VIOLENCE

There was no extra guard at the jail when Williams first was removed. Sheriff Luten declared there had been no advance indication of any mob violence and "I wasn't dreaming of any such thing."

When the negro was placed in the ambulance and started toward Tallahassee, Luten did not assign any guards. "I didn't expect trouble of any kind," he said.

State Attorney Orion C. Parker, Jr., of Tallahassee, joined Luten in investigating the case.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Body Of Negro Attack Suspect Is Found Riddled With Bullets

MAY 13 1941

Wounded Man Taken By Band After First Lynching Effort Fails

QUINCY, Fla.—(AP)—The bullet riddled body of A. C. Williams, 22 year-old Negro, charged with attacking a 12-year-old girl, was found Tuesday on the Withlachooche Creek bridge, five miles north of Quincy, several hours after a band of men seized him in a second lynching attempt when the first had failed. MAY 13 1941

"We found him on his back, where he apparently had been dropped by bullets fired into his body," Sheriff M. P. Luten said. A coroner's inquest was set for 2 p.m.

No arrests have been made in the case, and Sheriff Luten said "we

have virtually no clues to work on."

The Negro was taken early Tuesday from an ambulance while en route to a hospital at Tallahassee for treatment of bullet wounds inflicted Monday after four men took him out of the Gadsden County Jail by forcing Officer Dan Davis to unlock the jail cells.

Will Webb, Negro operator of the ambulance, said "four or five men" stopped him between Quincy and Tallahassee.

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MAY 13 1941

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State Attorney Orion C. Parker, Jr., of Tallahassee, joined Luten in investigating the case.

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

THAT FLORIDA LYNCHING

The first account of a lynching of this year, 1941, comes from the state of Florida. It was an unusual kind of lynching in that four masked men armed with pistols took a Negro youth from jail, tied him to a tree, shot him—as they thought—to death, and then departed. The wounded lad, in some miraculous way, released himself and crawled to a nearby house for assistance. The jailer, hearing that the boy was wounded, summoned an ambulance to take him to the hospital and then notified members of the mob that their prey was not dead. Thus the ambulance was intercepted enroute to the hospital and the youth was "re-lynched," this time for good, by what is believed to be the same masked men who had taken the prisoner from the jailer.

Our comment in connection with this case is that the Attorney General of the United States should immediately dispatch FBI agents to the scene and have the perpetrators of this crime brought to justice. We say this because the state of Florida, through its officials, has already said that nothing could be done about bringing "parties unknown" to justice.

MAY 16 1941

News
Birmingham, Ala.

LYNCHING DEPLORED

The lynch-murder of a Negro accused of criminal assault upon a white girl in Florida recently can bring only misgivings to the hearts of clear-thinking citizens who realize the great harm an incident of this kind does to a community, a state and the South in particular.

What makes this case even worse is the fact that the mob shot the Negro down once and left him for dead; then learning that he had been revived and was being taken to a hospital, waylaid the ambulance and took the Negro away to complete the task of killing him. The two attacks prove that the murder was not committed at the height of rage but was a premeditated affair.

Coming at a time when there is still agitation in the National Congress for an anti-lynch law, directed at the South, this is a deplorable event in more ways than one.

We have no wish to discuss the guilt or innocence of the victim; it is the lynch-murder in which we are interested. There are courts of the land to see that justice is done in a case of this kind and this procedure would have been followed in the present case. Lynch law is always to be condemned, no matter what the circumstances, as is the taking of the law into one's hands in any other matter. The members of a lynching mob are just as much criminals as the accused person they murder; in this case even more so for the Negro had not been proved guilty while the mobsters knew they were guilty of violating the law when they took his life.—Anniston Star.

* * *

FSA TRIES GROUP DAIRYING

Last week we had occasion to ride up through several of the counties of the Black Belt in Western Alabama, and commented as we went on the large amount of land, once in cultivation, which is now lying fallow. Saturday as we were returning home we found the streets of Greensboro and Uniontown crowded with Negroes, as is always the case on Saturdays, and we wondered how these people manage to subsist with so much of the land now being diverted to pasture or lying idle.

Sunday morning, as though in answer to this trend of thought, we noted in the daily press where the government has leased more than 3,000 acres of land near Greensboro on which will be placed 73 of the Negro families which have been left without a means of livelihood since the land owners of that section have forsaken cotton for livestock.

Elsewhere we carry the article which tells in detail how the energies and efforts of these families will be directed. To our way of thinking, this experiment is one of the most worth while attempted by the New Deal in its effort to better the condition of that class which is unable to materially better its own condition.

Negroes of the Black Belt, as well as those in many other sections, have barely subsisted for decades as they tried to make a living growing cotton. They knew nothing else because this was all they had ever done, and when the boll weevil and changing conditions made it no longer profitable to grow cotton, their plight was indeed pitiable. Alone and unaided, they had neither the resources nor the training to turn to other pursuits, but working as a collective unit, with the government aiding them financially and directing their work along intelligent and profitable lines, they should find their lot vastly improved and should soon be on the way to an independent living.

We hope the Greensboro experiment will be such an unqualified success that the plan will be extended to all other counties, and that the hard-pressed farmers of those counties, both white and colored, will be afforded relief from the sore plight in which they now find themselves.—Clarke County Democrat (Grove Hill).

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Seized Twice by Lynchers; Shot to Death

Quincy, Fla., May 13 (AP).—A. C. Williams, 22 year old Negro charged with assaulting a 12 year old white girl, was found shot to death today, several hours after a band of men seized him in a second lynching attempt when the first had failed.

"We found him on his back, where he apparently had been dropped by bullets fired into his body," Sheriff M. P. Luten said. No arrests have been made in the case, and Sheriff Luten said "we have virtually no clews to work on."

The slain man's body was found on a bridge over a creek five miles north of here.

First Siezed at Jail.

The first lynching attempt came in the evening when four white men armed with pistols locked officer Dan Davis in a cell at the Gadsden County jail and took Williams with them.

Williams was found shortly after midnight at a Negro residence near here, Sheriff Luten said, "with eight or ten bullet wounds in his body" and badly beaten about the head.

Luten said "undoubtedly an attempt was made to lynch him" and his attackers left him for dead. A physician here said Williams had a fairly good chance to recover, so the prisoner was put in an ambulance to be taken to a hospital at Tallahassee, about 25 miles west of Quincy.

Luten said he assumed the Negro's attackers believed him dead and, therefore, he anticipated no further trouble and sent the ambulance out without a special guard.

Pulled Out of Ambulance.

About five miles from Quincy, Luten said, the vehicle was forced to a halt by "four or five men," and the wounded man was pulled out and taken away.

Will Webb, Negro operator of the ambulance, said: "One of them said they wanted the man I had in the ambulance, and they didn't want any trouble. I told them they wouldn't get any trouble out of me, because I didn't even have a pocket knife."

Webb said the men did not harm him or his assistants and he did not recognize any of them.

Williams was unable to give any clews to the identity of his first attackers, Sheriff Luten said, and Officer Davis also was unable to say who they were.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

FAIR ENOUGH

By WESTBROOK PEGLER.

Horror In Florida.

NEW YORK, May 18. — According to the newspaper accounts, the lynching of a Negro in a little town in northwestern Florida a few nights ago was an episode which, for bestiality, could be matched only in cultural exercises of the super-race of Adolf Hitler. Suspected but not yet formally accused of criminal assault on a white child, the victim was roped to a tree, shot and left for dead, but crawled to a refuge and there was recaptured by a law officer. He then apparently was surrendered without a struggle to a mob which finished him off.

The section of the country in which this horror occurred is in the social and intellectual slum which, according to the hearsay historians of Florida, was populated by low whites who fled from the other southern states, notably Georgia and Alabama, to escape service in the War Between the States, and the white population is distinguished from the Negroes only in the matter of complexion and other racial characteristics.

It should be easy to catch and convict all the murderers, but any serious attempt to do so probably would result in either local revolution or such a farce as would further discredit the law and civilization.

Many areas of Florida are civilized only in a few outward appearances, for the state still consists largely of frontier and backwoods, and we deceive ourselves by imagining that frontiersmen and backwoodsmen are all brave, chivalrous characters. The robbers and killers of the old west, glamorized in song and story out of all resemblance to their diseased and dirty criminal character, were, in fact, no better than the common city gunman or the backwoods lyncher of today.

MAY 19 1941

Adolescent State.

Florida is an adolescent, irresponsible and, thus far, incorrigible state whose most respected political and civic leaders in the urban areas have frankly insisted that it is necessary, in the interests of progress and prosperity, to connive at crime and build on vice and official corruption. Knowing, for example, that a gambling house cannot operate openly without the corrupt consent of the local officials, many of these leaders hold, nevertheless, that if gambling were put down the tourists would go elsewhere and business would suffer.

MAY 19 1941

In the cruder back country the conditions of life are primitive, and habitations may be seen from the highway in which there are neither panes nor screens to the windows, and creatures having the physical appearances of human beings live in such squalor as to revolt the very buzzards.

It is not to scold the people or the state that such observations are made, but rather to indicate how it can be that white men, claiming to be members of a superior breed, can so degrade themselves and embarrass the race in which they hold technical membership in an effort to impress their superiority on their Negro neighbors. Ignorance and brutality die hard and slowly in certain strains of Florida Caucasians and resist such refinements as electric signs, the radio, plumbing and paving, even on the luxury coast of the Atlantic.

Only two years ago, in one of the oldest and most sedate cities of the coast, a community where wealth abounds and books have been reported, a Negro taximan ran down a white child in a traffic accident and was taken from the hands of the law by relatives of the deceased and shot under the law of flight in the presence of a little party of shocked and frightened tourists. This was duly listed as a lynching in the annual score, whereas it was plainly a common, premeditated murder which could have been punished by the death penalty if the morality and the public opinion had existed.

No Excuse For Lynching.

There is never any reason or excuse for the lynching of a Negro in Florida, and it must be added that the worse the crime the less the white man need concern himself about a miscarriage of justice. In the most recent case the prisoner would have got his promptly and in full measure had the law been allowed to take its course, but the killers doubtless were afraid that on his trial the accused might prove his innocence or import from the north some lawyer who would demonstrate that the victim tempted him and, anyway, that he wasn't in the state of Florida at the time but studying in class at the College of the City of New York.

Civilization can't be hurried in the Florida swamps and backwoods, on either the whites or Negroes. Each degrades the other, but the white man has moments when he can really show the Negro a very recognizable stump of the tail by which his not so remote ancestors swung from tangled vines amid the stunted trees.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Assault Suspect Lynched in Fla.; Inquiry Ordered

Quincy, Fla., May 13 (AP).—A 22-year-old colored man arrested for attempted assault upon a 12-year-old white girl, his body riddled by bullets from two lynching efforts of a masked band, was found dead shortly after daybreak today on a creek bank [illegible] north of here.

The lynching stirred a State investigation. Gov. Spessard L. Holland called for a detailed report from Sheriff M. P. Luten and State's Attorney Irion C. Parker, who said they had made no arrests and had no clews to identify the slayers.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Masked Band Kills Victim In Second Try

MAY 14 1941

Florida Lynchers Take Man From Ambulance After Escape

QUINCY, FLA., May 13.—(AP)—The two-day lynching of A. C. Williams, 22-year-old negro, stirred a State investigation of the circumstances under which he was twice seized by a masked band and finally riddled with bullets today. He had been arrested for attempted assault upon a 12-year-old white girl.

Governor Spessard L. Holland at Tallahassee called for a detailed report from Sheriff M. P. Luten and State Attorney Orion C. Parker, who said they had made no arrests and had no clues to identify the negro's slayers.

Williams first was taken from the Gadsden County jail Monday by four masked men who, at gunpoint, compelled Officer Jean Davis to open the jail doors.

Last midnight Sheriff Luten and other officers found the negro, severely wounded by pistol bullets and blows on the head, at a negro residence near here. They placed him in an ambulance for transfer to a hospital in Tallahassee, 25 miles away.

Five miles out of Quincy, a masked band stopped the unguarded ambulance and removed the wounded negro. His riddled body was found after daylight on a creek bridge north of Quincy.

MAY 14 1941

Will Webb, negro driver of the ambulance, said that when the band stopped him "one of them said they wanted that man I had in the ambulance, and they didn't want any trouble.

"I told them they wouldn't get any trouble out of me because I didn't even have a pocket knife."

Webb and the negro assistants riding with him were not harmed.

Williams was arrested Sunday. There was no extra guard placed over him at the jail because Sheriff Luten said there had been no indication of any mob violence and "I wasn't dreaming of any such thing."

The ambulance from which Williams was removed the second time was unguarded also, Luten explaining "I didn't expect any trouble of any kind."

State Attorney Parker said the negro was tied to a pecan tree Monday and made the target for bullets. Apparently the rope that bound him was severed by one of the bullets, and when the lynching band left, the negro ran to a nearby house where Sheriff Luten found him.

MAY 14 1941

placed against Williams because of his Sunday arrest, but Parker said the formal warrant would have been obtained if the negro had not been seized and killed.

An inquest at Quincy failed to produce clues to the identity of Williams's attackers. Several witnesses said the band of men wore black hoods both times the negro was seized.

The coroner's jury found Williams met death at the hands of unknown persons.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Mob Kills Suspect In Quincy, Fla.

Man's Body Riddled With Bullets By Masked Murderers

QUINCY, Fla.—(SNS)—Governor Spessard L. Holland late Tuesday called for an investigation of the two-day lynching of A. C. Williams.

Williams, arrested for attempted assault upon a white girl, was reportedly twice seized by a masked mob and finally riddled with bullets Tuesday.

The Governor called for a detailed report of the circumstances in the lynching from Sheriff M. P. Luten and State Attorney Orion C. Parker.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Florida Studies Two-Day Lynching

QUINCY, Fla. (AP)—The two-day lynching of A. C. Williams, 22-year-old Negro, stirred a state investigation of the circumstances under which he was twice seized by a masked band and finally riddled with bullets Tuesday. He had been arrested for attempted assault upon a 12-year-old white girl.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Florida's Governor To Study Lynching

QUINCY, Fla.—(AP)—State Atty. Orion C. Parker, Jr., prepared Wednesday a preliminary report for Gov. Holland on the lynching of A. C. Williams, 22-year-old Negro who was shot to death near here early Tuesday.

Parker said a coroner's inquest had added little to his knowledge of the case but added that "we intend to pursue the matter further."

His preliminary report to the governor will be submitted either Wednesday or Thursday and will include a stenographic report of the two-hour inquest, Parker declared. The coroner's jury said merely that Williams was killed by "parties unknown."

The Negro, accused of attempted assault on a 12-year-old white girl, first was taken from the Gadsden County Jail Sunday night by four armed, hooded men. He apparently was tied to a tree and shot at least 10 times, finally managing to crawl from the scene to the home of his mother.

Sheriff M. P. Luten then arranged to send him to a Tallahassee hospital in an ambulance, but the ambulance was stopped four miles from Quincy by three masked men. Williams' body was found on a bridge north of here early Tuesday morning.

Asked by Parker whether he expected any trouble while the Negro was being taken to Tallahassee, Luten said:

"Absolutely not. If I would have acted much differently if I had. I didn't think anything could happen since only myself and three other white men and a few Negroes knew Williams was to be taken out of town."

Tallahassee, Fla. Democrat
May 13, 1941

NEGRO IS DEAD AFTER LYNCHING

Second Attempt Is Fatal After First Fails

QUINCY, (AP)—The bullet-riddled body of A C Williams, 22-year-old negro charged with assaulting a 12-year-old white girl, was found today on the Withlacoochee Creek bridge, five miles north of Quincy, several hours after a band of men seized him in a second lynching attempt when the first had failed.

"We found him on his back, where he apparently had been dropped by bullets fired into his body," Sheriff M P Luten said. A coroner's inquest was set for 2 p m.

No arrests have been made in the case, and Sheriff Luten said "We have virtually no clues to work on."

The negro was taken early today from an ambulance while enroute to a hospital at Tallahassee for treatment of bullet wounds inflicted Monday after four men took him out of the Gadsden county jail by forcing Officer Dan Davis to unlock the jail cells.

Will Webb, negro operator of the ambulance, said "four or five men" stopped him between Quincy and Tallahassee.

"One of them said they wanted that man I had in the ambulance and they didn't want any trouble," Webb said. "I told them they wouldn't get any trouble out of me, because I didn't even have a pocket-knife."

Webb said the men did not harm him or his assistants. He did not recognize any of them.

Williams was not guarded by officers on the Tallahassee trip.

After being removed from the jail, in what Sheriff Luten said was "obviously a plan to lynch him," Williams was found about midnight at a negro residence outside Quincy. The sheriff reported he had "eight or ten bullet holes in his body, and had been clubbed about the head."

He was not in condition to give officers any information, Sheriff Luten said.

There was no extra guard at the jail when Williams first was removed. Sheriff Luten declared there had been no advance indication of any mob violence and "I wasn't dreaming of any such thing."

When the negro was placed in the ambulance and started toward Tallahassee, Luten did not assign any guards. "I didn't expect trouble of any kind," he said.

State Attorney Orion C Parker, Jr, of Tallahassee joined Luten in investigating the case.

Five miles out of Quincy, a masked band stopped the unguarded ambulance and removed the wounded negro. His riddled body was found after daylight on a creek bridge north of Quincy.

Will Webb, negro driver of the ambulance, said that when the band stopped him "one of them said they wanted that man I had in the ambulance, and they didn't want any trouble."

Webb and the negro assistants riding with him were not harmed.

Williams was arrested Sunday. There was no extra guard placed over him at the jail because Sheriff Luten said there had been no indication of any mob violence.

Ambulance Unguarded

The ambulance from which Williams was removed the second time was unguarded also, Luten explaining: "I didn't expect any trouble of any kind."

State Attorney Parker said the negro was tied to a pecan tree Monday and made the target for bullets. Apparently the rope that bound him was severed by one of the bullets, and when the lynching band left, he ran to a nearby house where Sheriff Luten found him.

Last midnight, Sheriff Luten and other officers found the Negro, severely wounded by pistol bullets and blows on the head, at a Negro residence near here. They placed him in an ambulance for transfer to a hospital in Tallahassee, 25 miles away.

Five miles out of Quincy, a masked band stopped the unguarded ambulance and removed the wounded Negro. His riddled body was found after daylight on a creek bridge north of Quincy.

Will Webb, Negro driver of the ambulance, said that when the band stopped him "one of them said they wanted that man I had in the ambulance, and they didn't want any trouble.

"I told them they wouldn't get any trouble out of me because I didn't even have a pocket knife."

Williams was arrested Sunday. There was no extra guard placed over him at the jail because Sheriff Luten said there had been no indication of any mob violence and "I wasn't dreaming of any such thing."

Quincy, Fla., May 13—(AP)—The two-day lynching of A. C. Williams, 22-year old Negro, stirred a state investigation of the circumstances under which he was twice seized by a masked band and finally riddled with bullets today. He had been arrested for attempted assault upon a 12-year old white girl.

Governor Spessard L. Holland at Tallahassee called for a detailed report from Sheriff M. P. Luten and State Attorney Orion C. Parker, who said they had made no arrests and had no clues to identify the Negro's slayers.

Williams first was taken from the Gadsden county jail Monday by four masked men who, at gunpoint, compelled Officer Dan Davis to open the cell doors.

Last midnight, Sheriff Luten and other officers found the Negro, severely wounded by pistol bullets and blows on the head, at a Negro residence near here. They placed him in an ambulance for transfer to a hospital in Tallahassee, 25 miles away.

Five miles out of Quincy, a masked band stopped the unguarded ambulance and removed the wounded Negro. His riddled body was found after daylight on a creek bridge north of Quincy.

Williams was arrested Sunday. There was no extra guard placed over him at the jail because Sheriff Luten said there had been no indication of any mob violence and "I wasn't dreaming of any such thing."

The ambulance from which Williams was removed the second time was unguarded also, Luten explaining, "I didn't expect any trouble of any kind."

No formal charge of assault had been placed against Williams because of his Sunday arrest, but Parker said the formal warrant would have been obtained if the Negro had not been seized and killed.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
April 21, 1941

WOUNDED NEGRO ATTACK SUSPECT SEIZED, KILLED

Holland Probes Double-barreled Lynching

QUINCY, May 13. — (Associated Press.)—The lynching of A. C. Williams, 22-year-old negro, stirred a state investigation of the circumstances under which he was twice seized by a masked band and finally riddled with bullets today. He had been arrested for attempted assault on a 12-year-old white girl.

An inquest at Quincy failed to produce clues to the identity of Williams' attackers. Several witnesses said the band of men wore black hoods both times he was seized.

Governor Holland called for a detailed report from Sheriff Luten and State Attorney Parker, who said they had made no arrests and had no clues to identify the negro's slayers.

Williams first was taken from the Gadsden county jail Monday by four masked men who, at gunpoint, compelled Officer Dan Davis to open the cell doors.

Found Him Wounded

Last midnight, Sheriff Luten and other officers found the negro, severely wounded by pistol bullets and blows on the head, at a negro residence near here. They placed him in an ambulance for transfer to a hospital in Tallahassee, 25 miles away.

Pensacola, Fla. Journal
May 14, 1941

Probe Ordered In Lynching Of Negro at Quincy

Gadsden Sheriff Has Made No Arrests And Has No Clues

QUINCY, May 13.—(AP)—The lynching of A. C. Williams, 22-year old Negro, stirred a state investigation of the circumstances under which he was twice seized by a masked band and finally riddled with bullets today. He had been arrested for attempted assault upon a 12-year old white girl.

Governor Spessard L. Holland at Tallahassee called for a detailed report from Sheriff M. P. Luten and State Attorney Orion C. Parker, who said they had made no arrests and had no clues to identify the Negro's slayers.

Williams first was taken from the Gadsden county jail Monday by four masked men who, at gunpoint, compelled Officer Dan Davis to open the cell doors.

Washington, D. C. Post
May 14, 1941

Assault Suspect Lynched in Fla.: Inquiry Ordered

Quincy, Fla., May 13 (AP).—A 22-year-old colored man arrested for attempted assault upon a 12-year-old white girl, his body riddled by bullets from two lynching efforts of a masked band, was found dead shortly after daybreak today on a creek bridge north of here.

The lynching stirred a State investigation. Gov. Spessard L. Holland called for a detailed report from Sheriff M. P. Luten and State's Attorney Irion C. Parker, who said they had made no arrests and had no clews to identify the slayers.

Columbia, S. C. State
May 14, 1941

Fla. Lynching To Be Probed

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

FLORIDA GOVERNOR ORDERS PROBE OF BRUTAL LYNCHING

MAY 24 1941

QUINCY, Fla., May 22—Surviving one lynching Monday by a group of masked men, A. C. Williams, 22, arrested here on charges of allegedly attempting to assault a 12-year-old white girl, succumbed to bullets fired in a second lynching which followed in less than 24 hours, when early Tuesday morning he was taken by men wearing masks from an ambulance while en route to a hospital in Tallahassee, 25 miles distant, to be treated for his original injuries.

The killing of Williams created a sensation throughout the state, and an immediate investigation and report was demanded by Gov. S. L. Holland in an order issued to State Attorney O. C. Parker and Sheriff M. P. Luten. A day or so later, the Governor received a letter from Episcopal Bishop J. D. Wing of Tallahassee who, citing that Sheriff Luten had permitted the lynching of a prisoner in his custody, called on the Chief Executive to suspend the Sheriff from office.

MAY 2

Monday, in broad daylight, four masked men entered the county jail here, where only one man, Deputy Sheriff Dan Davis, was on duty, and with drawn pistols forced the officer to surrender his keys, locked him in an empty cell, then entered the cell where Williams was confined, seized the prisoner and took him with them.

A search was organized, but it was not until nearly midnight that the Sheriff and his posse located Williams. They found him in the house of another race member to which he had fled after being repeatedly wounded by pistol bullets and beaten about the head. It was learned he had been tied to a tree before he was shot that one or more of the bullets fired had severed the cord that bound him, and that waiting until the lynchers had departed, he had managed to get to his feet and make his way to the house to which the officers finally traced him.

Sheriff Luten had an ambulance brought to the scene, placed Williams in it and told the driver, William Webb and his assistant, both colored, to take him to a Tallahassee hospital. No guard was placed over the prisoner and no armed escort accompanied the ambulance.

Before the ambulance left on its journey, a local physician examined the injured man and asserted that though his wounds were severe he believed his chances for recovery were good. When the ambulance reached a bridge over a creek only some 5 or 6 miles from here, however a band of armed, masked men suddenly appeared, ordered the driver to stop, removed Williams and shot him to death on the bridge after directing the vehicle be driven on toward Tallahassee.

Williams' lifeless body was found on the bridge shortly after daylight Tuesday morning.

Apparently the same men participated in both lynchings, as on each occasion only four or five persons were involved, and each time black masks were worn.

Laurel, Miss. Call
May 13, 1941

Florida Negro is Seized by Mob and Lynched

Taken from Ambulance by Group of Unidentified Men and Shot; Had Attacked Little White Girl.

(By Associated Press)

QUINCY, Fla., May 13.—The bullet-riddled body of A. C. Williams, 22-year-old negro charged with assaulting a 12-year old white girl, was found today on the Withlachoochee creek bridge, five miles north of Quincy, several hours after a band of men seized him in a second lynching attempt when the first had failed.

"We found him on his back, where he apparently had been dropped by bullets fired into his body," Sheriff M. P. Luten said. A coroner's inquest was set for 2 p. m.

No arrests have been made in the case, and Sheriff Luten said "we have virtually no clues to work on."

The negro was taken early today from an ambulance while enroute to a hospital at Tallahassee for treatment of bullet wounds inflicted Monday after four men took him out of the Gadsden county jail by forcing Officer Dan Davis to unlock the jail cells.

Will Webb, negro operator of the ambulance, said "four or five men" stopped him between Quincy and Tallahassee.

Williams was not guarded by officers in the Tallahassee trip.

After being removed from the jail in what Sheriff Luten said was "obviously a plan to lynch him," Williams was found about midnight at a negro residence outside Quincy. The sheriff reported he had "eight or ten bullet holes in his body, and had been clubbed about the head."

He was not in condition to give officers any information, Sheriff Luten said.

There was no extra guard at the jail when Williams first was removed. Sheriff Luten declared there had been no advance indication of any mob violence and "I wasn't dreaming of any such thing."

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

GUNMEN TAKE NEGRO ACCUSED OF ATTACK

MAY 13 1941

Florida Sheriff Says Victim Probably Lynched

QUINCY, Fla., May 12.—(AP)—Sheriff M. P. Luten reported Monday night that a negro held for attempted assault upon a 12-year-old white girl was taken from the Gadsden County jail here by four men "and probably lynched."

He named the negro as A. C. Williams, about 22 years old.

The negro's body has not been found, Sheriff Luten said, "but I'm confident heh as been lynched."

He said four white men, with pistols, forced Officer Dan Davis to open the jail. Then they locked Davis in a cell and left with the negro.

MAY 13 1941

The negro was arrested Saturday night, and Sheriff Luten said there had been no indication of any violence.

"I wasn't dreaming of any such thing," he said, explaining that he had not placed any extra guard at the jail.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

...ion into Lynching Ordered By Florida

MAY 14 1941

QUINCY, Fla., May 13.—(AP)—The two-day lynching of A. C. Williams, Negro, stirred a state investigation of the circumstances under which he was twice seized by a masked band and finally riddled with bullets today. He had been arrested for attempted assault upon a white girl.

Governor Spessard L. Holland, at Tallahassee, called for a detailed report from Sheriff M. P. Luten and State Attorney Orion C. Parker.

Bystander
Des Moines, Iowa

Mob fo Floridans Lynch Man After Second Attempt

Quincy, Fla.—A. C. Williams, 22, charged with assulting a 12-year-old girl, was found shot to death Tuesday, several hours after a band of men seized him in a second lynching attempt when the first had failed.

"We found him on his back, where he apparently had been dropped by bullets fired into his body," Sheriff M. P. Luten said.

No arrests have been made in the case, and Sheriff Luten said "we have virtually no clues to work on."

Bridge

The slain man's body was found on a bridge over a creek five miles north of here.

The first lynching attempt came in the evening when four white men armed with pistols locked Officer Dan Davis in a cell at the Gadsden County jail and took Williams with them.

Williams was found shortly after midnight at a Negro residence near here, Sheriff Luten said, "with eight or ten bullet wounds in his body" and badly beaten about the head.

Luten said his attackers left him for dead. A physician here said Williams was put in an ambulance to be taken to a hospital at Tallahassee, about 25 miles west of Quincy.

Luten said he assumed the man's attackers believed him dead and therefor he anticipated no further trouble and sent the ambulance out without a special guard.

About five miles from Quincy, Luten said, the vehicle was forced to stop by "four or five men" and the wounded man was pulled out and taken away.

Will Wright, Negro operator of the ambulance, said "one of them said they wanted the man I had in the ambulance, and they didn't want any trouble. I told them they wouldn't make any trouble out of me, because I didn't even have a pocketknife."

Wright said the men did not harm any of his assistants. He did not recognize any of them.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

FLORIDA MAN IS LYNCHED BY TWO MOBS

First Group Leaves Him For Dead; First Lynching of Year

QUINCY, Fla. — Two mobs attacked A. C. Wilson, 22, the second one succeeding in putting him to death Tuesday, May 13. Wilson was found shortly after midnight Monday, with eight or 10 bullet wounds in his body. The first mob left him for dead but he was found and taken to a physician who said that he had a fairly good chance to recover.

Sheriff M. P. Luten put him in an ambulance which was to drive the wounded man to a hospital at Tallahassee, 25 miles from here.

Five miles from Quincy, the ambulance was stopped by "four or five" men who pulled the injured Wilson from the vehicle, riddled his body with bullets and left his body on a bridge over a creek five miles north of here.

Sheriff Luten said, "We found him on his back where he apparently had been dropped by bullets fired into his body." No arrests have been made, the sheriff said, "because we have virtually no clues to work on."

Sheriff Luten said that he put Wilson in the ambulance without guards because he did not anticipate trouble as the first mob had thought the man dead.

The first mob dragged Wilson from a cell at the Gadsden county jail Monday night, after locking Officer Dan Davis in a cell. They took Wilson away, shot him and left him for dead. Sheriff Luten found him near a Negro residence and had him taken to a physician. Wilson was accused of assaulting a white girl.

His is the first lynching reported in the year 1941.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

MOB HI-JACKS PRISONER FROM FLORIDA COPS

Body Riddled with Bullets By Terrorists After Report of Attack

(Special To Star-News)

QUINCY, Fla.—The body of youthful A. C. Williams, latest victim of a Florida lynch mob, was brought back to this city Wednesday . . . five hours after the 22-year-old laborer had been strung from a pecan tree and riddled with bullets.

More than 100 white men, armed with revolvers, clubs and knives, took young Williams to the outskirts of Quincy early Sunday night, following a rumor that he had tried to attack a white girl, and fired several bullets into his body before leaving on the presumption that the victim was dead.

Several hours later, Williams came back to the city and went to the home of a friend where doctors examined him and declared that he had a good chance to recover.

Sheriff M. P. Luten heard about it and went into the colored area, "rearrested" the accused suspect and turned him over to the mob again. That occurred early Tuesday night. Four hours after he had been taken into custody the second time, Williams' body was discovered on a bridge, five miles away, with hundreds of bullet holes in his body. Some authorities expressed the opinion that a machine gun was used to murder him.

In Tallahassee, the State Capitol, only 25 miles from the spot where Williams was found, Governor Spessard L. Holland ordered an immediate investigation. But the Sheriff told investigators he was not able to learn the identity of those responsible for he lynching.

Sheriff Luten admitted, meanwhile, that he had made no attempt to protect the suspect because "I never dreamed they would hurt him."

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

FLORIDA MOB GETS ITS MAN; SHOOTS HIM 'DEAD' TWICE

Lynchers Can't Be Apprehended, So High Sheriff Promptly Admits

QUINCY, Fla., May 14—Without having had "his day in court" to face the charge that he was guilty of assaulting a white girl, A. C. Williams, 22, was twice the victim of Florida lynchers who accomplished their deed by shooting the young man to death, early Tuesday morning of this week.

The first attempt to lynch Williams came Monday evening when four whites armed with pistols were able to go to the Gadsden County Jail and "overpower" Dan Davis, the white officer in charge and lock him in his cell. These men then took their prisoner away and shot him several times, leaving him for dead. However Williams later, in some unexplained manner, got to the home of friends. These friends sought to rush him by ambulance to a hospital hoping that his life could be saved.

When the lynchers learned early Tuesday morning that their victim was still alive and was being rushed to a hospital they took out in pursuit of the ambulance, overtook it on a highway to Tallahassee. The lynchers compelled William Webb, the driver of the ambulance, to turn over Williams to them by threatening to kill him if he did not obey. Webb stated that he was unarmed and could not resist the lynchers.

For the second time the lynchers riddled Williams' body with bullets and evidently made sure that he was dead before leaving the scene of their crime.

The fact that Williams had been attacked by the lynchers was known to Sheriff M. P. Luten. The wounded man was in the sheriff's custody and he failed, according to his own admission, to give any protection to the wounded man while he was being carried to the hospital. And, surprisingly, he gave as his reason for not giving any protection the excuse that he "thought the Negro was already dead."

Webb, the colored driver of the ambulance and his companion have been "quoted" by the Sheriff as saying they would be unable to identify any of the members of the mob and the Sheriff himself says that he virtually has no clues on which to work if he should make any effort to find out who were in the mob.

The bullet-riddled body of Williams was found on a bridge over a creek, five miles north of Quincy. Sheriff Luten was able to tell all about the lynching except who might be guilty of the crime.

Getting to the bottom of the crime, it is felt, will have to be taken by individuals or organizations outside of the community.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Another Lynching Recorded

"Four masked men, armed with pistols, took the Negro from the county jail on Monday after compelling Dan Davis, an officer, to open the cell doors. Last midnight the Negro severely wounded by pistol bullets and blows on the head, was found at a Negro house near here by Sheriff Luten and others.

"They put him in an ambulance for transfer to a Tallahassee hospital twenty five miles away. Five miles from Quincy (Fla.) a masked band stopped the unguarded ambulance and removed the Negro. His body was found some five hours later."

The above two paragraphs succintly tell the story of the Florida lynching of A. C. Williams, 22 years old, who was accused of attempted rape of a 12-year-old white girl.

Without going into the merits of the case, we contend that Williams should have been protected by the officers into whose custody he had been placed and should have been given a fair and impartial trial by a

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

MAY 17 1941

Florida Mob Lynches Youth After Failing on First Try

QUINCY, Fla. — While American leaders are berating foreign aggressors for mistreating European minorities, a mob of Southern whites went on a rampage Tuesday morning and lynched a 22-year-old colored youth who had been suspected of an alleged attack on a 12-year-old white girl.

The victim, A. C. Williams, was found shot to death, several hours after a band of whites seized him in a second lynching attempt after the first had failed. Sheriff M. P. Luten said Williams was taken from the Gadsden County jail Monday night by four pistol-wielding white men who locked Officer Dan Davis in a cell.

Williams was found shortly after midnight at a colored home near here, Luten said, "with eight or ten bullet wounds in his body" and badly beaten about the head.

Luten said he "assumed" the colored man's attackers believed him dead and therefore he anticipated no further trouble and sent an ambulance bearing Williams out without a special guard. A physician had said the youth had a fair chance to recover after the first assault, so he was being taken to a hospital at Tallahassee, about 25 miles from Quincy.

Will Webb, colored operator of the ambulance, said "one of the men said they wanted the man I had in the ambulance and they didn't want any trouble. I told them they wouldn't get any trouble out of me because I didn't even have a pocket knife."

Florida Mob Lynches Negro Retaken After First Attack

By the Associated Press

QUINCY, Fla., May 13.—A. C. Williams, 22-year-old Negro charged with assaulting a 12-year-old white girl, was found shot to death today, several hours after a band of men seized him in a second lynching attempt when the first had failed.

The first lynching attempt came in the evening when four white men armed with pistols locked Officer Dan Davis in a cell at the Gadsden County jail and took Williams with them.

Williams was found shortly after midnight at a Negro residence near here, Sheriff Luten said, "with eight or ten bullet wounds in his body."

Sheriff Luten said "undoubtedly an attempt was made to lynch for dead. Williams was put in an ambulance to be taken to a hospital at Tallahassee, 25 miles west of Quincy.

Five miles from Quincy, Sheriff Luten said, the vehicle was halted by "four or five men" and the wounded man was pulled out and taken away.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.
April 26, 1941

4 WHITE HOODLUMS SLAY RACE FARMER

GASTONIA, N. C., April 24—In connection with the shotgun slaying near Cherryville in this county, Sunday afternoon, of Robert Melker, farmer, four young white men, Heywood Dellinger and Graham Dellinger, Brothers, Robert Sellers and Fred Hudson, are being held in jail here without bond.

According to the account of the fatal shooting by Sheriff Clyde Robinson, the four white men, riding in an automobile, passed Melker and his wife as they walked along the road, and yelled at them. When Melker replied, he said, the four became enraged, stopped the car and getting out, pelted the couple until they took refuge in their house located just off the roadway, nearby.

A moment later, the Sheriff said, Melkers' mother, Mrs. Elvira Melker, appeared on the porch of the home with a shotgun and fired it at the group of men, with the result that Sellers received several superficial face wounds. Leaving, he stated, the four men, obtained shotguns, returned to the Melker home, called Melker, and when he came to the door, shot him to death. After the Sheriff and his deputies had rounded up and arrested two of the group, the other two surrendered.

For original; see 37o 1941.

6679

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.
February 22, 1941

SOUTH CAROLINA JURY HOLDS 5 WHITE MEN IN NEGRO'S DEATH

Discharged White Employees beat Negro Millhand to Death for "Taking Job" at Lumber Camp— Corpner's Jury Acts.

GEORGETOWN, S. C., Feb. 20—(ANP)— A jury empaneled Tuesday at Andrews by the local coroner, ordered five white youths held for the death of Bruce Tisdale who died in a Florence hospital of head wounds.

The jury held that the five men are "all responsible for the death of Tisdale and are to be held for the higher court." They are being held here by Sheriff H. B. Bruorton.

According to testimony at the inquest, Tisdale and his friend, Eddie Gamble, were involved in a fight with the whites on the outskirts of Andrews Saturday night.

Gamble testified that he and the slain man worked at an Andrews lumber mill and that when they were hired, white men who did the same kind of work were discharged.

C. T. Barrineau, mill foreman, testified that Criss, one of the five men now being held, was discharged three weeks ago from the mill and that when he came back for his envelope he wanted to know "why the white men couldn't work and the 'niggers' could."

For original see: 33 1941

6680

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Jury Probe Of Lynching Is Promised

Sheriff Verifies Women's Account Of Blakely Death

BLAKELY, [AP]—Sheriff C. E. Martin of Early county said today a grand jury would investigate the alleged "lynching" of a Negro mechanic's helper, who he said died May 12 after a beating by three white men.

The Association of Southern Women for Prevention of Lynching reported in Atlanta that the death of Robert Sapp, Negro thievery suspect, had been classified as "lynching," adding:

DETAIL CHARGES

"Sapp, mechanic's helper, was taken a short distance from Blakely by three white fellow employes and beaten with a club and a piece of heavy machine belting. On May 12 he died from 'pneumonia.' The Negro was said to have stolen money from the safe of his employers and was suspected of stealing on former occasions."

The association alleged the beating took place May 6.

Sheriff Martin said the association's statements "are correct," but denied other allegations by the association that he had jailed the Negro without warrant after the flogging, or that he had neglected to provide adequate medical attention.

CLAIMS MAY 31 1941 GIVEN

"He had all the medical attention he could have," the sheriff said, "both by his own physician and the county physician. Everything that could be done for him was done. A warrant was sworn out for him the afternoon he was brought to the jail, but he was moved to his home when his condition was found to be so bad."

The sheriff said he knew nothing about the association's claim that he "advised" against an inquest, explaining that the coroner was "familiar with the facts as everybody else in Blakely was."

He predicted "plenty investigating" when the next grand jury meets July 21, and said he could take no further action until then.

Pensacola Fla Journal
May 31, 1941

Alleged Lynching Will Be Probed

Georgia Sheriff Says He Will Act in Case

BLAKELY, Ga., May 30.—(AP)—Sheriff C. E. Martin of Early county said today a grand jury would investigate the alleged "lynching" of a Negro mechanic's helper, who he said died May 12 after a beating by three white men.

The Association of Southern Women for Prevention of Lynching reported in Atlanta that the death of Robert Sapp, Negro thievery suspect, had been classified as "lynching," adding:

"Sapp, mechanic's helper, was taken a short distance from Blakely by three white fellow employes and beaten with a club and a piece of heavy machine belting. On May 12 he died from 'pneumonia.' The Negro was said to have stolen money from the safe of his employers and was suspected of stealing on former occasions."

The association alleged the beating took place May 6.

Sheriff Martin said the association's statements "are correct," but denied other allegations by the association that he had jailed the Negro without warrant after the flogging, or that he had neglected to provide adequate medical attention.

"He had all the medical attention he could have," the sheriff said, "both by his own physician and the county physician. Everything that could be done for him was done. A warrant was sworn out for him the afternoon he was brought to the jail, but he was moved to his home when his condition was found to be so bad."

Columbia S. C. State
May 31, 1941

'Lynching' of Negro Helper To Be Probed

Blakely, Ga., May 30—(AP)—Sheriff C. E. Martin of Early county said today a grand jury would investigate the alleged "lynching" of a Negro mechanic's helper, who he said died May 12 after a beating by three white men.

The Association of Southern Women for Prevention of Lynching reported in Atlanta that the death of Robert Sapp, Negro thievery suspect, had been classified as "lynching," adding:

"Sapp, mechanic's helper, was taken a short distance from Blakely by three white fellow employes and beaten with a club and a piece of heavy machine belting. On May 12 he died from 'pneumonia.' The Negro was said to have stolen money from the safe of his employers and was suspected of stealing on former occasions."

The association alleged the beating took place May 6.

Sheriff Martin said the association's statements "are correct," but denied other allegations by the association that he had jailed the Negro without warrant after the flogging, or that he had neglected to provide adequate medical attention.

"He had all the medical attention he could have," the sheriff said, "both by his own physician and the county physician. Everything that could be done for him was done. A warrant was sworn out for him the afternoon he was brought to the jail, but he was moved to his home when his condition was found to be so bad."

The sheriff said he knew nothing about the association's claim that he "advised" against an inquest, explaining that the coroner was "familiar with the facts as everybody else in Blakely was."

He predicted "plenty investigating" when the next grand jury meets July 21, and said he could take no further action until then.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Southern Women's Association Makes Report Of Affair

MAY 31 1941

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching Friday referred to the death of Robert Sapp, colored man of Blakely, Ga., as a lynching. Sheriff C. E. Martin was quoted as saying the man died there after a flogging administered by three white men on May 6.

According to the Association, Sapp, a mechanic's helper, was taken a short distance from Blakely by three white fellow employes and beaten with a club and a piece of heavy machine belting.

The Association further stated that Sapp died of pneumonia on May 12. Sapp was reported to have stolen money from his employer's safe and was suspected of stealing on former occasions.

Sheriff Martin was quoted as saying these statements "are correct' but denied further assertions by the association that he neglected to provide medical attention.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Jury To Probe Death of Negro

BLAKELY, Ga., May 30.—(AP)—Sheriff C. E. Martin, of Early county, said today a grand jury would investigate the alleged "lynching" of a Negro mechanic's helper, who he said died May 12 after a beating by three white men. The sheriff said the jury will convene MAY 31 1941.

The Association of Southern Women for Prevention of Lynching announced in Atlanta that the death of Robert Sapp, Negro thievery suspect, had been classified as "lynching," adding:

"Sapp, mechanic's helper, was taken a short distance from Blakely by three white fellow employes and beaten with a club and a piece of heavy machine belting. On May 12 he died from 'pneumonia.' The Negro was said to have stolen money from the safe of his employers and was suspected of stealing on former occasions."

The association alleged the beating took place May 6.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

MAN ACCUSED OF STEALING DIES AT HANDS OF MOB

Georgian Beaten, Put in Jail and Later Succumbs from Wounds

BLAKELY, GA.—Robert Sapp, a mechanic's helper at Felder & Son automobile dealers here, met death under circumstances that make it certain that his name will be added to the list of "democracy's" lynchings that have taken place since the present emergency.

Charged with having taken money from the safe at the place where he worked, though never indicted or tried on the charge, Sapp on May 6, was nabbed and hauled away in an automobile by three whites, employees of the firm, and taken to a nearby woods. The three whites took turn about in beating Sapp after they had laid him across the fender of their car.

A man working in a field, attracted by the beaten man's screams, went to the scene and looked on. He reported that when the beating was over Sapp fell to the ground unconscious. Later in the day, although neither indicted nor arrested, the county sheriff let the mobbists put Sapp in jail. A physician was called in by the sheriff and is said to have given the injured man inadequate medical attention. On May 10 the county doctor, C. R. Barksdale, went to the jail and noted the serious condition of the injured man. He ordered the sheriff to get Sapp out of the jail immediately. The sheriff then sent word to the mobbists who sent an ambulance to take Sapp to his home. On May 12, six days after the beating, Sapp died. The cause of death was given as "pneumonia."

But it virtually was a lynching. The kind that is being regularly carried out in Dixie since the defeat of the anti-lynching bill.

ROBERT SAPP TAKEN OUT OF BLAKELY

And Fatally Beaten By Three White Men

CORONER TOLD NOT TO HOLD INQUEST

No Arrest Made In Case

On May 6 at 5:30 a. m., Robert Sapp, mechanic's helper at Felder & Son, Ford dealers, Blakely, Georgia, was taken a short distance from that town by three white fellow employees and beaten with a club and a piece of heavy machine belting. On May 12, at 1:30 p. m. he died from "pneumonia." The Negro was said to have stolen from the safe at Felder and son and was suspected of stealing on former occasions.

Details of the beating, subsequent acts of the three white men, and the death of Sapp follows:

When the lynchers reached the woods nearby Blakely they took Sapp, laid him across the front fender of their car, and beat him one after the other, until all three were tired out. The commotion attracted the attention of a man working not far away who came to the scene. He reported that when the beating was over Sapp fell to the ground unconscious.

Though the Negro was not arrested nor was a warrant sworn out for him by his accusers, later in the same day (afternoon) Sheriff C. E. Martin allowed the three white men to lodge the injured Negro in the jail. Thereupon the sheriff called in a physician, who is reported to have given Sapp only inadequate treatment. Later the county doctor, C. R. Barksdale, who was was not called to see the prisoner until Saturday, May 10 four days after the injury were inflicted, was called upon examination of Sapp. Dr. Barksdale told the sheriff he had better get Sapp out of the jail immediately. The sheriff sent word to the leader of the mob to get an ambulance to take the Negro to his home.

Sullivan Funeral Home had charge of the body. Sullivan could not be reached for a statement as to the condition of the body but an attendant admitted that "They say it was in bad shape."

H. G. Nott, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, and Sheriff C. E. Martin advised the Coronor not to hold an inquest.

Atlanta, Ga, Journal
May 30, 1941

Georgia Death Listed 'Lynching'

By Associated Press

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching Friday announced the death of Robert Sapp at Blakely, Ga., as "a lynching" and Sheriff C. E. Martin said the Negro died there after a flogging administered by three white men May 6.

"Sapp, mechanic's helper, was taken a short distance from Blakely by three white fellow employes and beaten with a club and a piece of heavy machine belting," the association reported. "On May 12, he died from 'pneumonia.' The Negro was said to have stolen money from the safe at his employer's and was suspected of stealing on former occasions."

Sheriff Martin said these statements "are correct" but denied further assertions by the association that he had lodged the Negro in jail after the whipping, without a warrant, or that he neglected to provide adequate medical attention.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

The War Drive Takes Another Lynch Victim

In the wake of the Administration's war incitements against minority groups, another Negro worker has been lynched, this time in Blakely, Georgia.

The fact that the crime was unearthed by the Association for Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching—which condemned the delinquent sheriff—shows that the poll tax filibusters who glorify lynching in Congress don't speak for the Southern people. For a growing body of labor, organized poor farmers and progressives in the South are recognizing common cause with the Negro people.

In its statement the Association declared that the lynch victim, Robert Sapp, a mechanic's helper, was only a "suspect" in some petty theft, was jailed without a warrant, and that although he was cruelly beaten by the mob the sheriff denied him medical care. It stated further that the sheriff even refused to permit a coroner's inquest apparently to protect the mob and himself.

If ever there was an instance of implication of the poll-tax officials with the lynchers, this is one. Their feudal regimes breed lynchings—and whitewash the lynchers. The anti-lynch bill, besides being a curb on this national disgrace, would penalize the responsible "law eforcement" officials. Certainly, the Blakely sheriff needs investigation.

Blame for the increased lynchings lies upon the Roosevelt Administration, whose blocking of anti-lynch legislation, encourages mob violence against Negro Americans.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Cordele Slaying Called Lynching

CORDELE, Ga.—(SNS)—Arthur Johnson was the victim of a "police lynching" in the office of the chief of police here on May 24, if reports from several responsible sources are to be believed.

Although the local white newspaper reportedly carried an account of Johnson's death bein the result of resisting arrest, these reports say otherwise.

According to information, Johnson, a family man, having a wife and four children, ages three to fourteen, owed a white man a debt of $7.

Monday, May 24, the police picked him up, put him in jail and it is reported that the Chief of Police sent for the white man to come to the jail in order to beat up Johnson.

After several hours, the white man is alleged to have gone to the police station and Johnson was allegedly taken to the chief's office where the beating began. Johnson is said to have fought back and was successful in driving his assailants back for a few minutes rest while they collected themselves to renew the assault.

When the two started toward him again, Johnson is said to have reached for a Coca-Cola bottle on the floor in order to defend himself. The chief of police is then reported to have drawn his gun and shot Johonson seven times, death be instantaneous.

The city physician is then reported to have called a colored undertaker and to have told him that a man had fallen out dead in jail. The undertaker came for the body, picked it up and was told told to have Johnson buried by the next morning at ten 'oclock, it is stated. Police reportedly called on the dead man's mother to tell her that her son had been shot while resisting arrest or creating a disturbance.

MOTHER TOLD TO SHUT UP

When Johnson's mother began to cry, it is reported that she was told sternly: "Shut up. Don't you dare cry. Dry up those tears and keep quiet.

The dead man's widow and his four children are now on relief. Mrs. Johnson has high blood pressure and has been forbidden to work by her physician. Therefore, the oldest daughter, fourteen years of age, has been working in domestic service, bringing in all the cash income that the family now has. The family gets a "little food" from the Department of Public Welfare and friends help out.

The shooting is said to have been witssed by another colored prisoner in the jail whose life will probabably not be worth much if it is learned he said anything about the occurrence. The undertaker stands in a precarious position.

37a-1941 [redacted] GEORGIA

6681

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

GRAND JURY TO GET FACTS ON BEATING BY THREE WHITE MEN

37a Ga

BLAKELY, Ga., June 12—Brought to light and submitted to authorities in the form of a definite charge, by the Association of Southern Women For The Prevention Of Lynching, the alleged lynching of Robert Sapp, mechanic's helper, who died at his home here on May 12, and whose death is said to have resulted from a beating by three white men that occurred six days before, will be investigated by the grand jury which meets on July 21.

The Association which maintains headquarters in Atlanta, charges that three white men, all fellow employes, took Sapp some distance from the city limits on May 6, and beat him with heavy belting such as is used in the operation of machines, and a club, and that he contracted pneumonia which caused his death on May 12.

SHERIFF DENIES CHARGES

Announcement of the grand jury investigation was made by Sheriff C. E. Martin who admitted the correctness of the association's charges, but denied the charge brought against himself that he had neglected to see to it that Sapp received adequate medical attention, or had placed him in jail without a warrant following the beating.

He insisted everything possible was done for him by his own physician and the county physician, but when his condition was found to be critical he was transferred to his home. He also maintained that when Sapp was brought to the jail a warrant for his arrest was sworn out.

Sapp was beaten by the three white men whose names have not been revealed, according to the association's charges, because he was suspected of stealing money from the safe of his employer, and had been accused of former pilfering of various articles of more or less value.

Carrollton, Ga., Times
January 9, 1941

2 Innocent Negroes Lynched Here In 1864 By Hired Mob Editor Thomasson Recalls

By J. J. THOMASSON,
Editor Carroll County Times

Gentle reader, did you ever see a mob, that had been aroused by some great wrong, real or imaginary? When such a mob has been so wrought up, that for the time reason has given place to passion. I have, more than once.

Carroll county, to its credit, be it said, has never had a lynching within its borders committed by Carroll county men, although it came very near it one time.

In 1864, during the latter months of the war of the sixties, two negro men were lynched in Carrollton; taken from the county jail, which then stood near where the D. F. New Lumber shop now stands, and carried down Alabama Street just beyond the Methodist church which stood on the northeast corner of that part of the cemetery on the northside of Alabama Street, and hanged from a limb of one of the large oak trees that stood there then.

As too frequently happens when mobs hang men, these negroes were innocent of any offense worthy of death, nor were they hanged by Carroll county men, but by a band of soldiers who came here from Dallas, Ga., for that purpose.

The jail was built of hewn pine logs, with only wooden doors, being easily broken down. At that time there were but few men here, and they old men, too old to be in the army, hence no effort was made to prevent the mob executing its purpose.

A few mornings before this tragedy occurred, some one entered the home of a family where there were some young girls. The father, a Confederate soldier, was with the army in Virginia, while the mother and her children were peacefully sleeping.

The girls screamed, the intruder jumped out through the window and escaped. The alarm was given and the aged father of the woman, roused some of his near by neighbors, suspicioning a negro man belonging to a near by neighbor, who had but recently purchased him and brought him here from Virginia; they went to his home, and in a few minutes the negro came hurrying home. The occurence was about 4 o'clock, and before day light.

The negro, having lived in the community but a very short time, thought he had fallen into the hands of "patrollers" and was in for a severe whipping, the custom when a negro was out after night without a pass from his master.

He had spent the night at the "quarters" with the negroes of one of our most prominent citizens on Dixie Street, and was hurrying home before day light.

His conduct and fright convinced his captors that he was the guilty party.

Day light coming on soon there after a few other neighbors had gathered and were debating hanging him at once, as the wives and daughters of soldiers must be protected.

The owner sent for his neighbor, Judge B. D. Thomasson, who at that time was Solicitor General of this circuit.

After questioning the negro, he prevailed on his neighbor's and friends to put him in the county jail till the case could be properly investigated. Nothing more than severely frightening the good woman and her children had been done, so the negro was placed in jail. There was another negro in there at the time held for some minor matter.

An investigation was began at once, and it was clearly shown that this negro was entirely innocent, that he had not had time to get home from the time he had been waked up. Besides a traveler, who had camped on the roadside, was aroused by his dog which had stopped the negro and he had questioned him, and was ready to testify that he could not have been the guilty man.

Never-the-less, so convinced was the father of the lady that this negro was the guilty party, he and some of his neighbors, that they induced a company of troops to come and hang him, and while at it they hanged the other also simply because he was in jail. Thus two innocent men were sacrificed by Judge Lynch.

Two other negroes had been suspected. One, a mixed breed, white, negro and Indian blood in his composition, who belonged to my uncle, Judge B. D. Thomasson, who lived a little more than a mile beyond where the lady lived. Nothing more than suspicion, on the part of some of the neighbors, ever attached to him. Besides, he was at home and in the bed at 4 o'clock that morning, for I went out to wake up the negroes and I found him there with the others.

Never-the-less, he really was the negro who had climbed into a side room, thinking that it was occupied by a negro girl, and when he found his mistake he was worse scared than the young lady he awoke, and had just gotten home and got into his bed when I called him.

These facts came out some months later when he confessed them just before dying.

In the mean time the war had closed and the negro had left my uncle's home as had a great many other negroes and gone to Atlanta where there was a large number of yankee soldiers. He hung around there until he had contracted a combination of diseases, measles, along with some more loathsome ones when he came back home where he soon died.

His story was that he, too, had spent the night at other negro quarters on South Street and on his way home, in the belief that a negro girl occupied this side room, he had climbed into it. Finding his mistake he lost no time in getting home.

As to the time, 4 o'clock, in the morning, the confusion as to time. There was no standard of time then but Greir's Almanac and the sun. Each family had its sun dial, usually a crack in the door.

This last negro, who had a contagious disease, as he approached death, the attending physician told my uncle that his death was of but a few hours and that he should be put away at once for the safety of the family, hence we had made a plain pine coffin and had the grave ready dug and death came just at night fall, when by the light of pine torches, we buried him at the foot of a big pine tree near by.

It may not be out of place to say that all of the family who had not already had the measles took them from him and they went through the family.

I have given no names because and for the same reason that no publicity was given to the confession of the negro who really climbed into the house, and that is because there are descendants of these people living here who are our friends, and no good can come from undue publicity. The facts as here related came within my knowledge and are true. They show how honest and good people can and do make mistakes and that it is always best to let the courts decide questions of life and death, as it is better that a guilty man may escape rather than punish innocent men. Although no offense worthy of death was committed, two innocent men were hanged while the one who committed the act went free.

Alexandria, Va. Gazette
February 21, 1941

1836

LYNCHING among the Jersey Blacks.—We learn by the Salem Freeman's Banner that on Saturday last, Lynch law was executed at a settlement of blacks about two miles from the place called Hagerstown. A black man had been several days lounging about the settlement under the cloak and carrying the implements of a chimbey sweep. The resident blacks, however, suspicioned that his calling was not altogether as represented by his scraper and brush, charging him of being a spy sent among them for the purpose of finding out the residence of runaway slaves; he it is presumed, not being able to satisfy them of his innocence in the matter was taken into the woods a short distance from the road, and his hands tied extended over his head fastened to a tree, when and where a dozen of black women with sticks from a half an inch to an inch in diameter, well pronged, dealing deadly blows unmercifully on the supposed offender, when the attention of three citizens passing in a sleigh, was called to the sight. They loosed the poor wretch, who made off in haste, not however without a running stroke or two from some of the dusky sex.

37d1-1941 NORTHERN 6693

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Another Lynching

THE recent lynching in Florida should attract the attention of Washington lawmakers to the end that steps should be taken to enact a Federal law to prevent that crime. The lynching was one of the most brutal ones we have heard of in some time. Columnist Westbrook Pegler had this to say about it:

"According to the newspaper accounts, the lynching of a Negro in a little town in northwestern Florida a few nights ago was an episode which for bestiality, could be matched only in cultural exercises of the super-race of Adolf Hitler.

"Suspected but not yet formally accused of criminal assault on a white child, the victim was roped to a tree, shot and left for dead, but crawled to a refuge and there was recaptured by a law officer. He then apparently was surrendered without a struggle to a mob which finished him off."

There is certainly no good excuse for the delay on the anti-lynch legislation. As a matter of fact, it might be suggested that such legislation is needed for the defense program. It will give some degree of assurance to Negroes that the government does intend to insure them of a republican form of government and prevent their lives from being taken without due process of law (or the Hitler way).

MAY 25 1941

It looks as though things won't be so rosy for the southern Negro at war's end. Already southern whites have begun to lynch and kill soldiers. In the first Worlds' war southerners did not do that until the boys returned from France. Now they seem to be getting in practice. Negroes should like some assurance that they will not be lynched and mobbed when the world resumes normalcy. Congress can do this. It should.

Pegler said: "Florida is an adolescent, irresponsible and, thus far, incorrigible state whose most respected political and civic leaders in the urban areas have frankly insisted that it is necessary, in the interest of progress and prosperity, to connive at crime and build on vice and official corruption."

The strong arm of the Federal government should, therefore, intervene to prevent the "irresponsible" South from further depriving American citizens of their lives without due process of law.

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

FLORIDA LYNCHERS MAKE SCORE

Last week the State of Florida took the lead in the lynching league and has the record at this writing of making the only score for 1941. A group of lynchers found time to stop thinking about Democracy, the world war, and our National Defense program, and brutally murder the first Negro they could see, all because some rumor had gone out that a Negro had attacked a twelve year old white girl. Only God in Heaven knows whether that young man that was lynched was guilty, and only God will know because he did not have a chance to prove his innocence or guilt.

It is this type of barbarism that will defeat America and its Democracy, and not Hitler, because such practices as this are worse than Hitlerism in a country that claims to be a Democracy and to allow every citizen a right to happiness, freedom of speech, profection of the law and of equal opportunity to make a living.

MAY 23 1941

This young man was lynched twice. The first time he was left for dead, but the lynchers made a mistake and after learning that the young man was being sent for medical care they took him away from the law and made sure that the second attempt was successful. The sheriff of that county did not use his office to prevent that lynching. It could have been avoided. That sheriff should be ousted from office forthwith and a Federal investigation should be made and those lynchers brought to justice which would mean serving a long prison sentence or dying in the electric chair.

The entire article is an epic, but the following will suffice and make it unnecessary for us to write at length on Florida's most recent act of barbarism:

"It is not to scold the people or the State that such observations are made, but rather to indicate how it can be that white men, claiming to be members of a superior breed, can so degrade themselves and embarrass the race in which they hold technical membership in an effort to impress their superiority on their Negro neighbors."

That is the kind of stuff which is needed to knock the stuffings out of lynchings. If Mr. Pegler sticks to his oars, even the backwoods lynchers will be ashamed.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Westbrook Pegler Turns Spotlight On Florida's Vaunted Civilization

WESTBROOK PEGLER turned the spotlight on Florida's civilization in his column in Monday morning's Inquirer. It scorched. It sizzled. He pulled no punches. After opening wounds with his famous rapier threats, he pounded continuously the sore, raw spots with thunderous blows.

MAY 22 1941

We quote: **"According to the newspaper accounts, the lynching of a Negro in a little town in Northwestern Florida a few nights ago was an episode which, for bestiality, could be matched only in cultural exercises of the super-race of Adolph Hitler. Suspected but not yet formally accused of criminal assault on a white child, the victim was roped to a tree, shot and left for dead, but crawled to a refuge and there was recaptured by a law officer. He then apparently was surrendered without a struggle to a mob which finished him off."**

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

President Reminded Lynching Is Rampant

"While we suffer indignities and injustice, this is our homeland—America," said Dr. J. C. Jackson, president of the New England Baptist Missionary Convention, in his annual address last Thursday.

"We must be willing to make sacrifices, along with all other racial groups, for the preservation of our country, while we hope for a better day," he continued. "At the same time, we must remind President Roosevelt that the anti-lynching bill is a dead letter and lynching still marches on in this fair land of ours."

The Convention held its 67th annual session Thursday and Friday at the St. Paul Baptist Church, 10th and Wallace streets. Rev. E. Luther Cunningham, B.D., was host-pastor.

Halls Ellison Appointment

Dr. Jackson hailed the appointment of Dr. J. M. Ellison as president of Virginia Union University as marking a "new epoch", adding that "not only Baptists, but leaders of our race everywhere join in rejoicing that one of our race has come to such preeminence, not as a matter of favor, but because of fitness."

The Convention's auxiliaries met as follows: Tuesday, the Sunday School; Wednesday, the B. Y. P. U.; Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning, the women.

Among the program participants were: Rev. E. A. E. Palmquist, of the Philadelphia Federation of Churches; Rev. J. Austin, of Chicago; Raymond Pace Alexander, Dr. W. Harry Barnes, Rev. Fred H. Butler, representing the Methodists; Rev. D. A. Scott, Rev. R. M. Owens, of Boston; Rev. W. P. Hayes, Rev. A. R. Moss, Rev. J. R. Moore, Rev. George Crowley, Rev. W. J. Winston, of Northern University; former Judge William Harrison, of Chicago; Dr. J. H. Jackson, Rev. A. Nelson, and Rev. W. G. Sharpe.

The Convention raised $3030.21, of which the auxiliaries contributed $993.70 as follows: Women, $412.36; Sunday School, $187.07; and B. Y. P. U., $64.27.

The Convention will meet next year at the Concord Baptist Church, Brooklyn, N. Y., of which Rev. J. B. Adams is pastor.

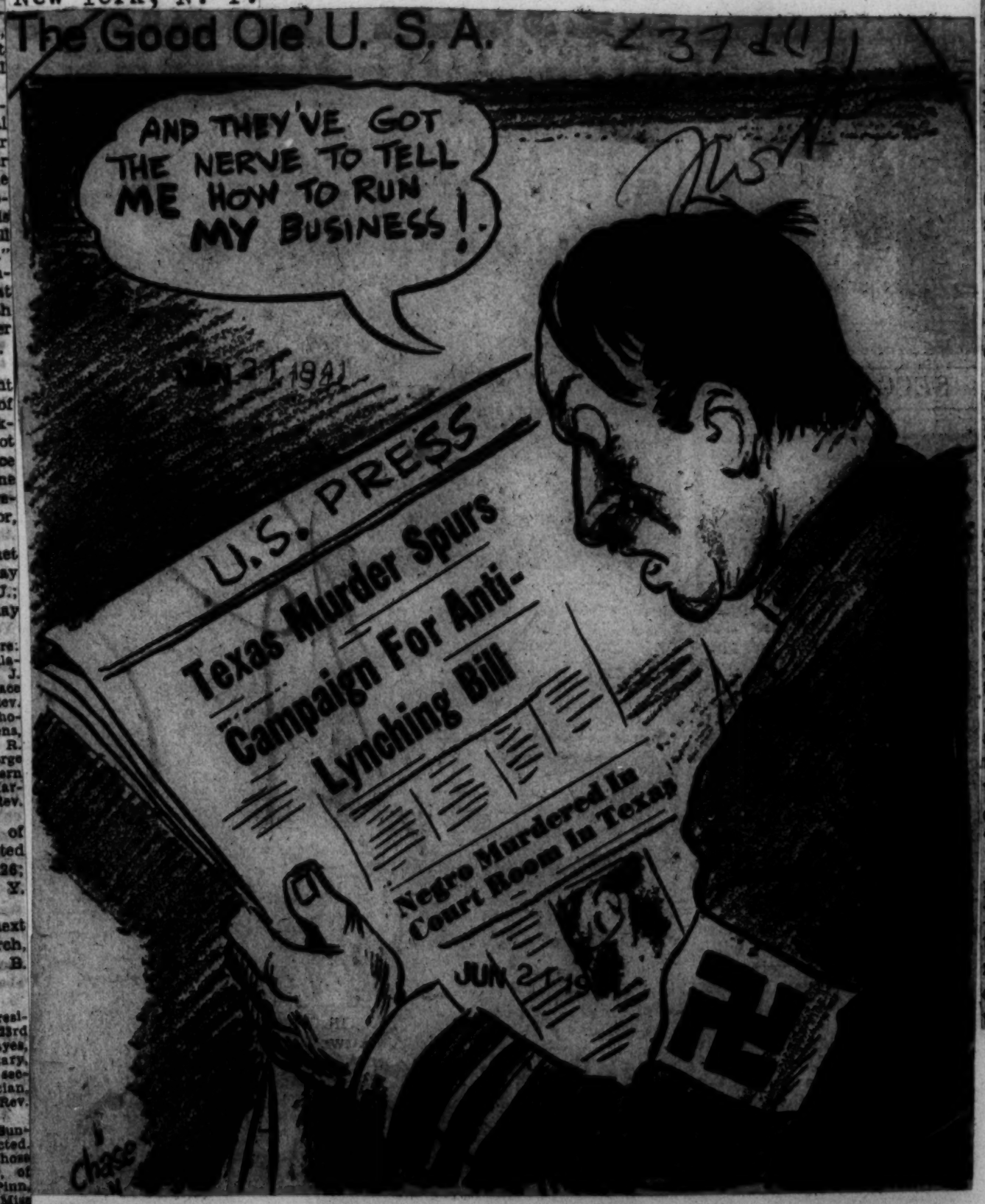
Official Roster

Parent Body officers chosen are: President, Dr. Jackson, re-elected for the 23rd year; vice presidents, Revs. W. P. Hayes, and W. H. Jernagin; recording secretary, Rev. W. L. Clayton; corresponding secretary, Rev. [illegible]; statistician, Rev. J. C. Jones; and auditor, Rev. W. A. Epps.

The officers of the Women's and Sunday School auxiliaries were re-elected. However, the B.Y.P.U. Convention chose a new president, Rev. M. J. Minor, of Boston, Mass., to succeed Willard T. Pinn, of New York, who declined to serve. Miss Hemenia Miller was chosen vice president.

—A Colored Judge—

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.



The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

The Post Defends The Lynch Class

At a time when the campaign for the Negro's full citizenship is gaining ground, the New York Post publishes an article which serves as an alibi for the lynch class in the South.

Its special correspondent from Quincy, Florida, where A. C. Williams, a Negro youth, was lynched the other day, wrote Friday:

"Returning to the late unpleasantness (the Williams lynching), there have been some suggestions from Yankeeland that the affair was being whitewashed. The fact is that a thorough-going inquest was held, with the inevitable verdict of 'unknown persons,' and that the governor obtained complete reports both from the sheriff and the prosecutor, including the inquest transcript."

What irony and cynicism in the phrase "thorough-going inquest"! This is the language of the state officials themselves—it is their way of giving free rein to lynch terror against the Negro people.

Besides being an outright defense of the delinquent officials (in a small town where the young Negro was twice mobbed), it is a flippant, and contemptuous treatment of the Negro's fundamental rights, designed to incite sectional hatred. In implying that "local prosecution" is impossible because the "usual stone wall exists," the story only shows again how the very governors of these states are actually a part of the feudal lynch system. The legislature couldn't concern itself, the correspondent unwittingly revealed, because it was too busy placing the burden of "defense" taxation on the local masses.

It is an indication of what the war crowd has in store for the Negro people that the Post publishes a story of this character. But the Social-Democratic Post with all its fake zeal for democracy, cannot wipe out the blot of Bourbonism upon the nation expressed in this lynching.

6694

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

4th Mob Killing Calls For Lynch Bill Passage

MAY 25 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 22 —Ponting to the recent lynching of A. C. Williams, 22 year old Negro worker, near Quincy, Fla., as another example of how the Administration's war machine tramples the life out of the Negro people while its leader shouts about "defending democracy", the National Negro Congress called upon individuals and organizations to send telegrams to President Roosevelt and their Congressmen, demanding passage of the federal anti-lynching bill.

Arrested early Sunday, May 11 and charged with raping an 11-year-old white girl, Williams was taken from the Gasden county jail by a mob of whites late that night after his captors had forced Deputy Sheriff Dan Davis to turn over his prisoner. Davis was locked in an adjoining cell by the mob.

Northern

Suffering from severe bullet wounds Williams, according to Sheriff M. F. Luten, escaped from the mob and came back to town the next day. Luten said he placed the victim in an ambulance without police protection, and sent him to [illegible] for medical treatment. According to the sheriff, the mob waylaid the ambulance driver, five or six miles out of Quincy, dragged the stricken man from the machine and riddled his body with bullets.

MAY 29 1941

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Jim Crow and Lynching

Dear Sir:—The Supreme Court has outlawed Jim Crow but Congress has permitted the vicious crime of lynching to go unheeded. What a sad commentary on democracy? Little wonder the dictators say democracy is dead, when men in the "greatest" democracy in the world are denied a fair trial by jury as guaranteed by the Constitution.

In the light of present events, drastic measures should be taken by a united appeal to curb this vicious crime, thereby uplifting the moral standard of the people.

HAMILTON RICHARDS.

Harlem.

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SOUTHERN

6695

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

SOUTHERN CIVILIZATION

[Events And Comments]

By ASA H. GORDON, A. M., Litt. D.

THE TWILIGHT OF LYNCHING

AUG 22 1941

It must be admitted that we of the South perhaps constitute the most lawless section of a rather lawless nation. We were impressed by a recent newspaper statement that when the first request was made that the people voluntarily try to save gasoline the poorest showing of cooperation was in the South. It seems that the New England states, especially Massachusetts, made the best showing. Although this was not a law it showed that those sections of the country most particular about keeping the laws were likewise more particular about voluntary cooperation with the government in voluntary activity. This is just as you would expect it to be.

The main reason why lynching has persisted so long in the South is because the Southern white people have the habit of not paying much attention to the law of their state and the nation except when they like the laws. It follows from this characteristic of the South that lynching or any other lawless activity in the South will cease only when public opinion in the South is marshalled against it. We cannot stop lynching in the South by having either the states or the nation pass "anti-lynch" laws. If the South believes in lynching and thinks that Negroes deserve no consideration in courts of law Negroes will continue to be lynched inspite of any and all law against it because neither the South nor the nation can make the South law-abiding.

It is very encouraging to note that more and more frequently the Southern white people are beginning to register popular disapproval of this particular form of lawlessness. For a long time it has been the practice of leading newspapers of the South to deplore it not condemn lynching. This practice of the newspapers indicate that there is widespread condemnation of lynching among the "better class' of Southern white people and at the same time it encourages the officers of the law to oppose mobs even if they must do so at some personal risk. A good example of this is this news item taken from the Savannah Morning News of last Sunday: Roxboro, N. C., Aug. 16—(AP)—A determined little band of officers held a crowd of 500 angry men at bay before day today until a young Negro accused of rape was rushed unharmed to the state penitentiary at Raleigh, 55 miles away. AUG 22 1941

One reads more and more accounts of this kind here in the South. Our officers of the law are apparently developing more courage in the perfofmance of their duties because they know that they have an increasing volume of public opinion on their side.

It may be that we not yet have enough of these courageous actions to warrant us in saying that the "Twilight of Lynching" is at hand, but at least we are justified in saying that we are moving in the direction of a more lawabiding spirit in the South and that when we have reached a point where most of the people of the South, white and colored, have a profound respect for observance of all laws we shall then know that the end of lynching is at hand.

We do not want to close this discussion leaving the idea that we think that a national anti-lynch law would be useless. We believe on the contrary that it would be a great help. We believe that the Fifteenth amendment to our constitution giving the Negro the right to vote is a great encouragement to us and to our white friends who really believe in democracy and an anti-lynch law would also be a great encouragement to the growing sentiment toward law enforcement in the South. If there were no lynchings at all we would, of course, need no law. Laws are made to cover situations that have not yet reached the point of universal public approval and so we do need the law to help it become a reality that "The Twilight of Lynching" is at hand.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

German Vengeance and Southern Lynch-Law

OUR favorite afternoon newspaper, the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch, has discovered an analogy between the murder of innocent Frenchmen by the unspeakable Nazis in reprisal for the occasional killing of a German in occupied France, and the provisions of the proposed but rejected anti-lynching law. The resemblance is very thin, our esteemed friend admits, but it is there, "in principle."

The proposed but rejected federal anti-lynching bill would have made provisions for the punishment of sheriffs, deputies and other officers —ostensibly removal from office— for dereliction in protecting a prisoner from a mob, and would have provided for a fine upon a city or county or other political subdivision in which such dereliction occurred. The punishment of the officers and the imposition of a fine —be it remembered—would be the act or acts of a jury in a court in the jurisdiction in which the mob operated.

The Ledger-Dispatch approves, as being sound procedure, some form of punishment for sheriffs, deputies or other officers who exhibit palpable weakness in the face of a mob, but it does not think that punishment should be imposed by a federal statute. It says that "the federal government has nothing to do with such crimes committed within the respective states." The Ledger-Dispatch abhors the proposal to impose a fine of some sort on counties, cities and other political subdivisions, because that would be punishing the innocent—the taxpayers—for a crime committed by a mob. The ramifications of this phase of the deceased anti-lynching bill are so [illegible] that we concede the argument to the Ledger-Dispatch, but we wish to revert to the observation that "the federal government has nothing to do with such crimes committed within the respective states." We take it that the Ledger-Dispatch means to say that the federal government has nothing to do with lynching. The purpose of the proposed but rejected anti-lynching law was—the supreme court concurring—to give the respective states jurisdiction over lynching, just as the federal government now has, and now exercises jurisdiction over such crimes as murder, bank robbery, illicit traffic in alcoholic beverages, kidnaping and numerous other crimes over which the respective states originally had exclusive jurisdiction.

"The most innocent—old women owning little properties, even the kin of the lynched person"—to use the language of the Ledger-Dispatch, are now taxed for crimes far less heinous than lynching. They are taxed to maintain the Federal Bureau of Investigation which the cities, counties and other political subdivisions call upon daily in their efforts to prevent, control or punish crimes of various sorts which occur within the respective states. They are taxed to see that the federal government collects the taxes on the liquor other people consume. They are taxed to build roads upon which they never have an opportunity to travel. They are taxed to build palatial post-offices, court houses, jails and penitentiaries, and to maintain them in the name of the federal government. They are taxed by the federal government to defray the cost of so many crimes that we do not think they would mind being taxed —if a jury of their peers so decided —to forever banish mob violence from their localities. And we fail to see in the proposed procedure of the rejected, dormant or dead anti-lynching bill anything resembling —in principle—the atrocities recently practised upon the French people by the Germans.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Person County Shows The Way

The Person county grand jury is blazing a new trail for southern justice when, after hearing testimony of law enforcement officers, it returns a true bill of indictment against 10 individuals for alleged participation in a lynching attempt. There may have been instances of such action in the the south, but if so we fail to recall them. A similar instance in North Carolina dates back to the celebrated Needleman case of approximately a score of years ago when justice, as prodded by Solicitor Don Gilliam and Judge N. A. Sinclair, triumphed over mobbery.

There is no disposition whatever to prejudge the defendants or to express or engender any prejudice as to their guilt or innocense. They will, we are assuming, have their opportunity at the bar and the urge is for a fair and impartial trial with responsibility resting upon the state to conduct as vigorous a prosecution as the charge against them demands and for the jury in the case to weigh the evidence fairly, impersonally and with due regard for all factors concerned.

In the meanwhile Person grand jurors are to be commended for meeting the issue squarely, for doing their duty in the light of the evidence presented to them, and similar commendation goes to law enforcement agencies who are responsible for the marshaling of sufficient facts to warrant the indictment. The precise roles that state and county officials played in this connection we have no way of knowing or saying; but our hope of retributive action has, quite frankly, been sustained by the knowledge of the courage, determination and fidelity of the Person sheriff and his aids who frustrated a lynching in the first instance.

It is judicial progress indeed when officers of the law profess to recognize mob members and to bring their formal arraignment in this particular field where inability to follow through is the long standing pattern. Without detracting one iota of credit from those responsible for Person county's exception, we nevertheless believe [illegible] advancing public opinion, in which a more sensitive social conscience has large part, deserves its share of credit for what we hope will become the usual rather than the exceptional denouement in those instances where lynchings occur or are attempted.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Mrs. J. D. Ames, Implacable Foe Of Lynching, Born In Heart Of South

MAR 8 1941

ATLANTA.—(ANP) — An energetic, white woman counterpart of the late Ida B. Wells Barnett, (life-long champion of human rights and pioneer leader in the fight against the lynching evil) is Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

A native Texan, for 25 years a widow and the mother of three grown children, Mrs. Ames became interested in inter-racial problems in the late 20's, after serving a term as representative in the Texas legislature, and being thrice chosen (1920-24-28), as delegate at large to the National Democratic conventions.

In 1929, her work attracted the attention of Dr. W. W. Alexander who was director of the Interracial Commission in Atlanta. Accepting his offer to take charge of the Women's Division on Interracial Cooperation of the Commission, Mrs. Ames left Texas and made her headquarters in Atlanta.

In 1930, when she first took up her new work, there were 20 lynchings in the Southern States. In 1940, there were five, only three in 1939. Mrs. Ames said this week: "If I could go three years without a single lynching in the South, I would be ready to quit and go home to Texas." MAR 8 1941

She has often said: "If lynching is necessary for the protection of Southern women, we should support it. If it is not, we should do everything in our power to destroy that belief."

Mrs. Ames said she discovered that some lynchings for assault and attempt to assault were on trumped up charges by which white men who had fleeced Negroes in money transactions disposed of the Negroes if they sought to complain.

In genuine cases, she said it is more important than ever that the Negro not be lynched, but tried "because they can't be sure he is the right man" without a trial.

The association she heads covers the entire 13 Southern states. When a lynching threatens, Mrs. Ames usually is notified by a member of her organization by long distance telephone. The association then tries quickly to enlist several of the town's chief citizens, hurry them to the sheriff, let him know they want no lynching and that they expect him to prevent it.

That is in emergency cases. The natural effort of the organization is one of education, she said, with emphasis on why the law should be allowed to take its course in all cases.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

SOUTHERN WHITE WOMAN IS DYNAMIC FOE OF LYNCHING

MAR 7 1941

Work of Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames Proving Effective Curb of Mobs.

ATLANTA, March 6 (ANP)—An energetic white woman counterpart of the late Ida B. Wells-Barnett, (life long champion of human rights and pioneer leader of the fight against the lynching evil) is Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the Associaton of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. MAR 7 1941

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Chicago Bee
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DIXIE WHITE WOMAN FOE OF LYNCH EVIL

MAR 9 1941

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Association Covers Wide Area

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6683

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

'Through Being a Lady,' Widow Hunts Fight, Keeps Battle on Lynchings Going 10 Years

FEB 25 1941

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames Heads Campaign of Women.

By Associated Press.

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Now in Atlanta she says she is happy as executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. She can get in plenty of fights.

Her path to this position has crossed varied fields of "propaganda."

FEB 25 1941

As a member of an erudite Texas family, she says she was "brought up under the trappings of the altar."

At 30, she found herself the widow of a major in the army medical corps; restless, and with an "almost abnormal sense of justice." She wanted to find a cause and get in the fight for it.

Was Legislator.

The battle for woman's suffrage first claimed her efforts. That led to a stretch in the Texas legislature and the post of delegate at large from the state to the national Democratic conventions of 1920-24-28.

She had also become interested in interracial problems in the south and in 1929 her work in Texas attracted the attention of Dr. W. W. Alexander, who was director of the Interracial Commission in Atlanta.

On his offer to take charge of the women's division on interracial co-operation of the commission, Mrs. Ames left Texas and came to Atlanta.

Here, she pondered increasingly a statement she heard a Negro woman make back in Texas at an interracial meeting. The woman had declared that so long as white men lynched Negro men there could be no real faith by Negroes in white people.

In July, 1930, she wheeled $1,000 out of Dr. Alexander for the beginning of what became the organization she now heads.

Speaking before groups of women, she told them "if lynching is necessary for the protection of southern women, we should support it. If it is not, we should do everything in our power to destroy that belief."

She selected the women's church units the the "most powerful group of women in the south," and induced them to adopt educational programs on lynching.

Then she expanded to other women's clubs and federations. Particular emphasis was placed on the groups in the small towns because lynchings are few in cities.

Mrs. Ames said she discovered that some lynchings for "assault" and "attempt to assault" were on trumped-up charges by which white men who had fleeced Negroes in money transactions disposed of the negroes if they sought to complain.

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She speaks softly, lowering her voice when she grows more earnest.

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She has three children, a son who is a doctor and a daughter who is also a doctor. The third child, also a daughter, is a columnist for a group of weekly newspapers. All live in Texas.



Associated Press Photos.

ANYBODY WANT TO FIGHT?—Twenty-five years ago, Mrs. Jesse Daniel Ames (right) became a widow and decided she was "through being a lady." So she became executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. She's had plenty of fights and a lot of fun, she says. The picture at the left is a recent photograph of her.

6684

Atlanta Ga. Constitution
February 25, 1941

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By Associated Press.

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Charleston S. C. News & Courier
February 24, 1941

SOUTHERN WOMAN FIGHTS LYNCHINGS

Mrs. Ames Heads Association to Prevent Lawlessness in Thirteen States

Atlanta, Feb. 23.—(AP): When Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames became a widow about twenty-five years ago she decided she was "through being a lady" and started looking around "for a fight".

She says she is happy now as executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. She can get in plenty of fights.

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The battle for woman's suffrage first claimed her efforts. That led to a stretch in the Texas legislature and the post of delegate at large from the state to the national Democratic conventions of 1920-24-28.

Studies Race Problems

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Uses Educational Program

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Then she expanded to other women's clubs and federations. Particular emphasis was placed on the groups in the small towns because lynching are few in cities.

Mrs. Ames said she discovered that lynching for "rape" and "attempt to rape" were on trumped up charges by which white men who had fleeced negroes in money transactions disposed of the negroes if they sought to complain.

In genuine rape cases, she said it is more important than ever that the negro not be lynched, but tried "because they can't be sure he is the right man" without a trial.

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Reduces Lynchings

That is in emergency cases. The natural effort of the organization is one of education, she said, with emphasis on why the law should be allowed to take its course in all cases.

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6684

Murfreesboro, Tenn., News-Journal
February 23, 1941

Dr. Ham Describes Attack Of Mob To LynchHim in Texas

Exciting adventure was in order at the Gospel Tabernacle Friday night as Dr. M. F. Ham, noted evangelist, recounted some of his experiences with drunks bent on murdering him and mobs leading him to the noose.

His purpose was to show the manner in which a Christian shoud meet trial and bear the burden of the cross, forgetting self and striving to please God rather than men.

He was almost lynched in San Beinto, Texas, as soldiers were mobilized there during the World War, after he had refused to allow his tabernacle to be used for a dance and "recruits were lied to and told that I was pro-German." "However, up to that time I had raised more than $60.000 worth of Liberty Bonds in my tabernacles."

"I noticed there was a large number of soldiers in the congregation that night," he said.

"Some of them called me aside, and told me I would have three hours to get out of town. I asked them to let me talk to the officer in charge about it.

Come and get nim, boys' someone shouted. The soldiers led me out, and carried along a bucket of tar, feathers and a rope. I never was as happy in my life. I thought I was going to poin the martyrs. And you know, brethren, the Bible tells us there is a special ressurection for the martyrs.

Soon, an officer of the Cavalry came riding up at break-neck speed and I never heard such cussing in my life. He told the soldiers if they moved one foot he'd shoot them in their tracks, 'you should be shot anyway, being so low as to go into a meeting place and knock down preachers as you have done!"

Two services will be held Sunday in the tabernacle. At 2:30 p. m., Dr. Ham will preach on "The Battle of Armageddon and The Conversion of the Jews" and at 7:30 p. m. on "The Biggest Sinner in Murfreesboro."

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

SOUTHERN WHITE WOMAN IS DYNAMIC FOE OF LYNCHING

MAR 7 1941

Work of Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames Proving Effective Curb of Mobs.

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MAR 7 1941

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MODERN FARMER

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If it is not, we should do everything in our power to destroy that belief."

MAR 15 1941

Mrs. Ames said she discovered that some lynchings for assault and attempt to assault were on trumped up charges by which white men who had fleeced Negroes in money transactions disposed of the Negroes if they sought to complain.

In genuine cases, she said it is more important than ever that the Negro not be lynched, but tried "because they can't be sure he is the right man" without a trial.

The association she heads covers the entire 13 Southern states. When a lynching threatens Mrs. Ames usually is notified by a member of her organization by long distance telephone. The Association then tries quickly to enlist several of the town's chief citizens, hurry them to the sheriff, let him know they want no lynching and that they expect him to prevent it.

That is in emergency cases. The natural effort of the organization is one of education, she said, with emphasis on why the law should be allowed to take its course in all cases.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Race Tolerance Is Urged by Forum

MAY 10 1941

AMERICUS, Ga., May 9.—(AP)—Tolerance among races, nations and creeds was urged today in an educational forum sponsored by the Southern Women for Prevention of Lynching.

Mrs. M. E. Tilly, of Atlanta, associational officer, cited a large decrease in lynchings between 1930 and 1940. She said sheriffs in numerous counties had pledged themselves to protect their prisoners against mobs.

Mrs. W. A. Turner, of Newnan, said the purpose of the association was purely educational, and that it did not sponsor legislation against lynching.

MAY 10 1941

The Rev. W. B. Lawrence, rector of Calvary Episcopal church here, urged greater tolerance, and Mrs. C. E. Hinson, of Americus, discussed causes of crime among the underprivileged.

Dr. Lawrence said Americus had had no lynching in more than 35 years.

66685

St. Paul Minn. Pioneer Press
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1941

More Actual Lynchings

Sir:—A recent Pioneer Press editorial indicated that lynchings are decreasing and that procedural justice will eventually triumph over mob violence.

In this conclusion the writer unintentionally overlooks two very significant facts—facts which should make a federal anti-lynch bill "must legislation" for 1941.

In the first place, there has been no recognizable change of heart among those who foster lynch laws. However, agitation for the passage of a federal anti-lynch bill is so vigorous that the mere threat of its passage is a strong deterrent to public lynchings.

Secondly, though actual lynchings have not appreciably decreased in recent years, verified lynchings have decreased because of a new streamlined technique which makes it practically impossible to ascertain just when a person has really been lynched.

The lynchers are no longer mobs; they are small groups who spirit their victim away to some secluded spot, kill him, and quietly dispose of his body. In this manner the lynching is neatly performed, with no undesirable publicity or unfortunate after-effects. Someone just mysteriously disappears.

Furthermore, the sinister aspect of this new procedure serves a dual purpose. The undesirable person is removed, and the terrorism created by his unnatural disappearance becomes an effective means of keeping other Negroes in submission.

SAMUEL A. REED,
President St. Paul Branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.
St. Paul.

Roanoke, Va., World News
June 16, 1941

Lynching and Treason

(New York Times)

Nothing that can happen in this country is better grist for the Nazi propaganda mill than a lynching. Even though the number of such killings has declined in recent years; even though we are, on the whole, a law-abiding nation and, on the whole, give every accused man his day in court—in spite of these facts, every lynching proves that at some time in some community our people are not living up to their pretensions.

It is therefore literally true that the unknown men who killed a Negro prisoner near Quincy, Fla., on Tuesday morning were doubly steeped in crime. They murdered a human being who had not been convicted of a crime, though he may have been guilty of one. They also betrayed their country. Nor can the sheriff, who did not provide an adequate guard, or the State Attorney, who can find "no clues to identify the slayers," be absolved.

Public opinion, backed by efficient police action, can put a stop to lynchings. Something is rotten in any area in which they repeatedly occur and in which the guilty men go unpunished. North, South, East or West, any truly American community can and will end this scandal.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

The War Drive Takes Another Lynch Victim

• In the wake of the Administration's war incitements against minority groups, another Negro worker has been lynched, this time in Blakely, Georgia.

JUN 2 1941

The fact that the crime was unearthed by the Association for Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching—which condemned the delinquent sheriff—shows that the poll tax filibusters who glorify lynching in Congress don't speak for the Southern people. For a growing body of labor, organized poor farmers and progressives in the South are recognizing common cause with the Negro people.

In its statement the Association declared that the lynch victim, Robert Sapp, a mechanic's helper, was only a "suspect" in some petty theft, was jailed without a warrant, and that although he was cruelly beaten by the mob the sheriff denied him medical care. It stated further that the sheriff even refused to permit a coroner's inquest apparently to protect the mob and himself.

JUN 2 1941

If ever there was an instance of implication of the poll-tax officials with the lynchers, this is one. Their feudal regimes breed lynchings—and whitewash the lynchers. The anti-lynch bill, besides being a curb on this national disgrace, would penalize the responsible "law eforcement" officials. Certainly, the Blakely sheriff needs investigation.

Blame for the increased lynchings lies upon the Roosevelt Administration, whose blocking of anti-lynch legislation, encourages mob violence against Negro Americans.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

MAY 31 1941

THE GOOD PEOPLE OF QUINCY

She had not been to the editorial office on many previous occasions. But her sense of justice had been so outraged that she felt called upon to seek help in correcting the matter.

Westbrook Pegler, the columnist with poisonous typewriter and the penchant for going off at angles both good and bad, was the object of her ire.

Pegler, it seems, wrote a column on a recent lynching in Quincy, Florida (one of the most barbaric in Southern history). He didn't stop with condemning the lynchers, but made some further comments on the background of the area in which the lynching occurred. The people in that particular section of Florida, according to Pegler, were descendants of a group of scrub Southerners who ran off and refused to fight for the Confederacy.

The visitor was outraged. Some of the best people in the world, both white and Negro, are from that area, she pointed out. The section's history goes back over a hundred years. It was outrageous to indict every man, woman and child for no other reason than that a few of their number had been guilty of lynching.

There is no doubt that there are noble men and women in and around Quincy. There is evidence of their nobleness in the clippings left by the visitor. For instance, 18,000 citizens of Gadsden County (in which Quincy is located) have signed up for volunteer defense service in an impressive demonstration of patriotism. The churches of Quincy are filled each Sunday with God-fearing men and women who would not dare break the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill." Nor would they do anything which violated civilized concepts of jurisprudence.

Should the good people of Quincy be blamed for the actions of the bad people of Quincy?

It is not enough that good people refrain from lynching. Stephen, the coat-holder, threw no stones. Good people in the South cannot free themselves from the responsibility of lynching by shrugging their shoulders and saying, "That's white trash business."

If the good people of Quincy acted to prevent the lynching; if they are outraged by what appears to be either gross negligence or gross barbarism on the part of the sheriff; if they have become so ashamed of the blight upon their community that they demand that the guilty parties be punished; if they are determined that such a thing shall never happen again — then they are good people. And if those "ifs" are fulfilled, Westbrook Pegler made a vicious, unwarranted attack upon them.

MAY 31 1941

Tampa, Fla., Tribune
May 29, 1941

About Pegler

Senator Whitaker stated, on the Senate floor, that The Tribune "apologized" for printing Pegler's outburst on the Quincy lynching.

The Senator was characteristically inaccurate. There was not the slightest intimation of apology in The Tribune's comment. We printed the column and editorially denounced Pegler for his attempt to smear the entire state because of an isolated incident in one section.

We print the Pegler column because we find a reader demand for it. That doesn't mean that we agree with his assertions or vouch for his views. On some subjects, he is embittered by prejudice; but a reader survey shows that most of our readers want to read what he has to say, so we'll keep on printing his column, with or without the kind permission of legislative censors.

Commercial-Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

PEGLER OWES FLORIDA APOLOGY, SHE WRITES

Editor Constitution: I speak in all fairness to myself and the beautiful land that gave me birth, "Florida." In reference to an article in your paper dated May 19, headed "Fair Enough," by Westbrook Pegler.

I am not a writer in any from, just a housewife, mother, and a loyal citizen of my state and country. No, there is never any reason, or excuse for lynching anyone, negro or white. There is no reason or excuse for taking what you cannot give, life, in any form. Neither is there a reason for having officers that do not enforce the law, or traitors to your country, parents that degrade and disgrace their godly parents. Wherever you live you have them, and so do I.

But why slander a state filled with fine, Christian people, who are law abiding and love their native land, and thousands of others that love it by choice.

Look around you! I guess some Florida's son could name some happenings that you are not proud to admit. But why judge all by what a few might do in a moment of passion? It is not to scold the people, or your state, that I would like very much to use the back of my hair brush, and wash your mouth with soap, for the many unkind, nasty words you have used. Yet I think the proverbial trip to the woodshed would be best with a keen Georgia switch. For you speak as only an adolescent mind would speak, judging a world of people by what a few would do.

MRS. T. J. FUNDERBURK.
Gainesville, Fla.

Rocky Mount, N. C., Weekly News
May 23, 1941

LYNCHING AND TREASON

Nothing that can happen in this country is better grist for the Nazi propaganda mill than a lynching. Even though the number of such killings has declined in recent years; even though we are, on the whole, a law-abiding nation and, on the whole, give every accused man his day in court—in spite of these facts, every lynching proves that at some time in some community our people are not living up to their pretensions.

It is therefore literally true that the unknown men who killed a Negro prisoner near Quincy Fla., on Tuesday morning were doubly steeped in crime. They murdered a human being who had not been convicted of a crime, though he may have been guilty of one. They also betrayed their country. Nor can the Sheriff, who did not provide an adequate guard, or the State Attorney, who can find "no clues to identify the slayers," be absolved.

Public opinion, backed by efficient police action, can put a stop to lynching. Something is rotten in any area in which they repeatedly occur and in which the guilty men go unpunished. North, South, East or West, any truly American community can and will end this scandal.—From the New York Times

Shreveport, La., Journal
May 27, 1941

Pegler Under Fire in Florida

Tallahassee, Fla. (AP).—In a crowded, applauding chamber, Senator Amos H. Lewis of Marianna Tuesday lashed out at Westbrook Pegler as a "soul-sick, mud-wallowing, gutter scum columnist," for his criticism of Floridians after the lynching of a negro at Quincy May 13.

After Lewis' 25-minute address, which was joined by other members, the Florida senate unanimously adopted his remarks on Pegler as the judgment of the body.

Pegler wrote in his syndicated column about the lynching of A. C. Williams, 22-year-old negro, who had been arrested in connection with an alleged attempted attack on a 12-year-old white girl.

Four or five men took the negro from a Quincy jail May 12. He was found riddled with bullets but alive and started for a Tallahassee hospital the following day. Again, he was taken and this time killed.

Wilmington, N. C. Morning Star
August 13, 1941

FIVE LYNCHINGS IN U. S.

But five lynchings took place in the United States in 1939. Three of the victims were Negroes. There were 19 kidnapings as compared with 37 in 1938.

Winnsboro, S. C. News & Herald
May 15, 1941

A Charlestonian Challenges The S. C. General Assembly

W. W. Ball, In Front-Page Editorial, Says "Maybank Is Right, The People Are With Him."

(From The News and Courier)

Following denunciation of Burnet R. Maybank, governor, on the floor of the senate, as a "dictator-type fellow," that body voted 36 to 0 to over-ride his veto of a Barnwell county bill, described as a "local bill."

The house, a Barnwell man presiding, voted 97 to 0, to over-ride the veto.

Will the general assembly stop there? Following unanimously the Barnwell delegation, presumably accepting the description of Maybank as a "dictator-type of fellow," will it leave him as governor or will it impeach him?

Or, with this unanimous vote on its record, is it wanting in the guts to relieve the state of "dictatorship?"

With this unanimous vote on its record, will it rest stultified—afraid to carry its case to the only logical end?

The general assembly has cut its own cloth. Will it wallow in it?

The veto was right. The people of South Carolina will uphold the governor. If the legislature is not convinced, let it undertake impeachment. Nothing short of it is consistent with its unanimous action.

The governor is the chief executive; sheriffs are assistant executives. In its nature the office of sheriff is the same in every county. The main point in the bill is not the fee system. The point is deprivation of the sheriff's supervision of the jail. That takes from him the stronghold of his office. It strips him of the power to protect persons in his custody. It takes from him the power to prevent the lynching of an innocent man, as Sheriff White prevented it in Spartanburg.

The federal advocates of the anti-lynching bill will roll this legislative action under their tongues. Wagner and Van Nuys will gloat over it. They will proclaim it an act to make lynching easy.

The governor's duty is to fill vacancies when they occur. He alone is responsible. He cannot shift responsibility. He is under no more obligation to consult a county delegation than to consult other citizens. Many a governor has appointed men to office without consulting legislators. County legislators are not belted earls.

The unanimous action of the general assembly is a direct, plain declaration that in effect the general assembly should take over the duties of the governor and make him a figurehead.

It is a direct, plain assault on the constitution.

If the general assembly has the guts, it will try to rid the state of a "dictator-type" in the governor's office. Let it try. It won't. Having made its gesture, it will lie down. And wallow in the garments of its own cut.

In this matter, South Carolina is with Maybank. They know it. They won't dare to go farther.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
June 3, 1941

IT HAPPENED IN OHIO

BOKEELIA.—Lynchings are to be deplored, yet, if we had a few more of them for the kind of crime committed by that negro, little girls would be safer. Had I a daughter, under the same circumstances, I would gladly pull the rope. Some years ago, in Springfield, Ohio, one negro was lynched and a few more killed, and two whole blocks of negro dwellings burned, and all the negro did was shoot a policeman who tried to arrest him. PEARL L. MOON.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
June 10, 1941

TO PEGLER

SEBRING.—Mr. Pegler: In your ranting regarding recent Florida lynching, you showed no sympathy for the negro's victim—perhaps because they were white people and Southerners.

A social worker's recent report from a large city of your state tells of a tenement house occupied by 300 large families all using the same, one and only toilet, an outdoor one. Now Mr. Pegler, wouldn't that make a buzzard vomit? Why not devote your cleaning energies to your own state before attacking Florida?

BARBARA DARSEY.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
June 6, 1941

WHY SUCH UPROAR?

TAMPA.—Why does The Tribune or any Southern paper carry Pegler's column? The expression on his face is enough. He hates anything Southern. Why is there such an uproar over the killing of a rapist and the crime ignored or hushed up? Why can't people see that just so long as Southern women are subjected to such horrors there will be lynchings, and the only remedy is for the law to take speedy action without being hampered by Northern shysters, and years of delay, as in the Scottsboro case.

Why is this war called "England's war." It looks to me like England is just a barrier to be annihilated on the general route of destruction. BEFUDDLED.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

FLORIDA ANSWERS PEGLER

Tampa Morning Tribune Defends State Against "Smear" of Columnist—One Reader Would Join "Lynch" Mob, Another Agrees that Florida Is "a Barbarous Neck o' the Woods."

In the May 20th issue of the Tampa Morning Tribune, published in Tampa, Florida, the following editorial appeared:

SMEARING A STATE

Fortunately, readers of Westbrook Pegler's column are nearly all intelligent and well-informed persons, who cannot be misled by the exaggerated and vindictive smear which he seeks to apply to all Florida because of a lynching which occurred in one locality in the State. Enlightened readers of his column know that neither the State nor any section of it can truthfully be described as a "social and intellectual slum." They know it isn't true that "many areas of Florida are civilized only in a few outward appearances," that "Florida is an adolescent, irresponsible and, thus far, incorrigible State," that "ignorance and brutality die hard and slowly in certain sections of Florida," or that the State's back country is peopled by "creatures having the physical appearances of human beings who live in such squalor as to revolt the very buzzards."

Provoked by the account of the brutal lynching of a Negro (Negro with small n throughout), Pegler tries to "tobacco road" the entire State; yet he knows well enough that 999 of every 1,000 Floridians deplore and denounce lynching in any of its forms and that the Florida population ranks in right-thinking and respect for law and order with that of any State or region. He was not fair enough to mention that immediate action in a thorough investigation of the murder of the helpless Negro was taken by Governor Holland and that he will do something about it as soon as he is in possession of all the facts. The idea he endeavors to convey that Floridians condone such crimes will fail to impress the people of other States who know Florida from personal experience as visitors, and he wastes a lot of his bitterest English in trying to make them believe it. They also know Pegler, and they know that he sometimes permits his zeal as a crusader to blur his usually keen and righteous vision to the extent of denouncing an entire community or class for the sins and shortcomings of a few of its citizens or members. We shall see that Mr. Pegler is informed of the action taken by Florida authority to punish those who perpetrated or permitted the dastardly deed which aroused his ire, because we are confident that such action will be taken, and we trust that in fairness to the State he smears as "irresponsible and incorrigible" he will make due mention of it in his column. *(End of editorial)*

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

FLA. RILED OVER 'DIG' BY WRITER

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., June 5—The Florida Legislature stopped its busy deliberations to hear Senator Amos Lewis, of Marianna, condemn Westbrook Pegler, white columnist, for his writings concerning the lynching of A. C. Williams at Quincy.

Senator Lewis, representing the district noted for the lynching of Claude Neal, took Pegler to task for calling the West Floridians renegades from Alabama and Georgia, lacking patriotism. Senator Lewis' remarks were greeted with applause by the Senate chamber.

The action of the Florida Legislature is a clear demonstration of the need for a Federal Anti-Lynch law. By implication they have shown that they condone lynching.

Lewis said in his remarks that an Anti-Lynch measure may pass Congress but you could never strike from the heart of southern men the love and respect of womanhood. These remarks were made because of the trumped up charge of 'assault' against a white girl pending against Williams.

The Senate of the State of Florida shows clearly that it is in favor of men taking the laws of the state in their own hands. Williams was judged guilty by the white hoodlums of Quincy and so was lynched. The State Senate put its stamp of approval on it under the leadership of a man from a well-known 'Lynch County' of the State.

The Williams case has ended as usual. He came to his death at the hands of parties unknown. However, only three white men, two Negroes and Williams' mother knew that he was to be moved to Tallahassee.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
May 19, 1941

Murder's Background

The lynching of a Negro at Quincy, Fla., on Tuesday occurred under circumstances of more flagrant neglect by the sheriff than many similar cases of mob violence in some of the darkest years of the history of this peculiarly American crime. In most cases of lynching, the sheriff has made much more pretense of giving his prisoner protection, than in this instance. There were other unusual aspects of this case. While the accused man was suspected of attempted assault upon a 12-year-old white girl, no formal charge had been placed against him. The most extraordinary feature of the case, is that the victim was twice taken from his legal protectors.

Only four masked men wrested him from the sheriff the first time. He was taken from the jail, beaten and shot, and left for dead. The men had not done their work well. Their victim dragged himself to the home of another Negro near Quincy. There he was again picked up by the sheriff, to be taken in an unguarded ambulance to Tallahassee. News of this fact leaked out in some mysterious way, and this time a band of masked men did their work well. The man they had condemned to death without trial, was killed.

The people who administered this summary execution, with horrible brutality, may have been among their victim's accusers, but since no formal charge was made, how do we know that it had any basis whatever? There is no doubt that many innocent men have been lynched. Many Negroes were shot from ambush or lynched after the World War, because they had taken jobs formerly held by white men on Southern railroads, and the white men wanted the jobs back. This is all written down in the black record of lynching. Perhaps the 22-year-old Negro who was lynched at Quincy, had committed some informal offense, totally unrelated to the charge against him. We do not know.

There is really little chance that we shall ever finally banish the crime of lynching in the South, until we have done much more about the background which supplies such a favorable setting for the crime. When there is a wider realization that the Negro should have greater opportunity to live and to work, there will be a relaxation of the pressure designed to hold him down. The year 1919, when thousands of white men who had been in the military and naval services returned to seek their jobs in the South, was the worst year in the modern history of lynching. There were 83 lynchings in the United States that year and 76 of the victims were Negroes.

Lynchings have declined, and Negroes have gained more political rights than they enjoyed in 1919, but we doubt, nevertheless, whether their economic condition in the South has improved. It may even be worse than it was 20 or 30 years ago. The Negro has been shoved out of the skilled trades, and pushed off the best agricultural land. Although the thought is one we should like to dismiss, perhaps one reason why lynchings have declined is that the Negro is in a more hopeless position than ever to compete economically with the dominant race. —Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Hendersonville, N. C., Times-News
May 15, 1941

NEWSPAPERS' OPINIONS

LYNCHING IN FLORIDA FOLLOWS A FAMILIAR ROUTINE

The lynching at Quincy, Fla., last night followed the standard pattern—in essentials if not in detail.

First, the sheriff allowed himself to be "overpowered" at the jail by a number of men.

Then when the victim was left for dead and the sheriff discovered that he was still living, he placed the wounded man in an ambulance and sped out along the country roads. When the masked men appeared again and held up the ambulance, the sheriff gave him up without resistance.

Florida arms its sheriffs, and the latter are usually pretty handy and free with their guns. But of course a sheriff would never have a gun handy when a mob was breaking into his jail.

And of course it would not occur to him that it might be a good idea to take along his gun and some armed companions when traveling through lonely country with the intended victim of murderers—a victim they didn't want to talk.

As usual, too, the sheriff hasn't the faintest idea who the members of the mob were, though in Florida, as in other southern states, the sheriff usually knows the face and voice of every voter in the county.

This is the first lynching in the South for this year. There need not have been any if the people of all sections of the South had demanded that it be that way, and had insisted on a decent responsibility in their police officers.—Charlotte News.

Miami, Fla. Herald
May 14, 1941

A Florida Disgrace

THE brutal lynching of a negro for an alleged attack on a 12-year-old white girl near Quincy is a disgrace to the state of Florida and its law-abiding citizens.

The stigma that attaches to Quincy becomes a blot on the entire state. The fact that the mob went back and killed the negro when they found he was still alive, after a first lynching attempt had failed, indicates a suspicious freedom for the gang.

For years the South has fought the anti-lynch bill pending in congress as an unjust arraignment of an entire community which would be penalized for the lawlessness of a mob. For years the South has pointed to the decrease of lynchings as an evidence that the law would meet no pressing purpose.

This disgraceful affair at Quincy will set ablaze the ardor of the anti-lynch advocates in congress to impose the law on innocent people. This Quincy mob undoes in a moment what it has taken years to build.

An immediate and searching investigation by Governor Holland is in order.

Columbia, S. C. Record
May 15, 1941

While Pepper Talks.

Florida from which Senator Pepper talks has given the advocates of the federal anti-lynching bill another argument.

Four white men, armed with pistols, Sheriff M. P. Luten reports, took A. C. Williams, a Negro, from the Gadsden county jail Monday night and left him with "eight or ten bullet wounds in his body and badly beaten about the head," to be found Tuesday morning, still alive.

Officers put him in an ambulance for transportation to a Tallahassee hospital. The ambulance had proceeded only about five miles however when it was halted by "a group of persons" who took Williams from the ambulance, to complete the murder which the first "mob" had bungled.

Like all lynchings this one, too, is indefensible. Williams was accused of attempted assault upon a 12-year-old white girl and if he were guilty of the charge it could have been assumed that any Florida jury would have convicted him and the state of Florida would have punished him as the law provides.

And like all lynchings this one reflects seriously upon the efficiency of Florida's law enforcement agencies and the state's regard for law and order. It was the obligation of Gadsden county and the state of Florida to protect their prisoner and it was unforgivable that four men, however armed, should have been able to "storm" the jail and take Williams from it. It is unbelievable that the law enforcement officers, forewarned by the first attempt at lynching, should have taken no steps to guard the recaptured and wounded prisoner on his way to the hospital.

Not all of Senator Pepper's oratory can explain this away nor all the reports that Governor Holl asks for relieve Florida of the responsi the shame. For lynchings can be time and anywhere that the law enf cies are prepared to prevent the

St. Petersburg, Fla., Times
May 14, 1941

Once Again, Lynch Law!

LYNCH law has reared its ugly head once more in Florida, and as a result of this latest mob violence, a new stigma is attached to the state's reputation.

We are not proud of Florida's record in recent years. In fact, the state's history in respect to lynchings has been about the blackest in the south.

We can only hope—and not with too much confidence, on the basis of past performances—that responsible enforcement officers will apprehend and punish those guilty of this newest outburst of lawlessness.

The fact no adequate protection appears to have been given the negro, and the routine report of "no arrests made," suggest this may remain one more "unsolved" crime in the state's annals.

We hope that is not the case. We would like to see prompt and forceful action which would demonstrate our courts are competent to administer justice, without unwanted and illegal "assistance" from mobs of armed marauders.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
May 15, 1941

FLORIDA LAWLESSNESS

Authoritative accounts of the lynching of a Negro near Quincy, Florida, on Tuesday indicate clearly that this blot on the South's record could easily have been avoided. The Negro was accused of having assaulted a young white girl. On Monday he was taken from the Gadsden County Jail by four white men. On that occasion, the attempt to lynch the Negro was frustrated, but the accused man was wounded. Early Tuesday, Sheriff M. P. Luten had the wounded Negro placed in an ambulance bound for Tallahassee where the Negro was to have received medical treatment. The Negro driver of the ambulance reported later that somewhere along the way —about five miles from Quincy— "four or five men" demanded that the patient in the ambulance be turned over to them. Unarmed, the driver complied. A few hours later, the bullet-riddled body of the Negro prisoner was found on a bridge.

This tragic case is important because of the circumstances which tend to confirm the soundness of the position taken courageously by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. In all but a few cases, the Association asserts, lynchings can be prevented and the law permitted to take its course, if only law enforcement officers will do their duty. According to The Associated Press, extra guards were not on duty when the Negro was forcibly taken from the jail at Quincy on Monday. Sheriff Luten is quoted as saying there had been no advance indication of mob violence, and that he was "not dreaming of any such thing."

When there had been mob violence and it became necessary for the Sheriff to transfer his prisoner to another city for hospital treatment, guards were not assigned to the ambulance. Sheriff Luten is quoted as saying: "I didn't expect trouble of any kind." Still another statement by Sheriff Luten was, in the circumstances, to be expected: "We have virtually no clues to work on." It is hard to imagine a more flagrant case of official neglect of duty.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
May 17, 1941

Another Blot On Florida

All Florida is aroused, and justly so, over the lynching of a negro for an alleged attempted assault on a 12-year-old white girl near Quincy. There is no question that the crime is a blot against the entire state, a stigma that should force all of us to hang our heads in shame. The details of the lynching are revolting. The reports make no mention of positive proof of the negro's guilt.

Governor Holland has called for a thorough report from the Sheriff and the State Attorney of Gadsden county, where the lynching was committed. That certainly is in order. Bishop John D. Wing of the Episcopal Church has gone even farther and urged the Governor to suspend the Sheriff. We think that is in order, too.

In recent years most states in the South have made great progress in curbing lynchings but, sad to relate, it is evident Florida has not made enough progress. We recall that in a recent year when there were only four lynchings throughout the country, Florida was charged with two of them.

Hot-headed mob justice, as revealed far too often in Florida, has no place in a state that could and should be one of the most law-abiding in the nation. The Quincy outrage calls for the most complete investigation it is possible for Governor Holland to make.

Miami, Fla. Herald
May 29, 1941

Winchell Must Roar

COLUMNIST WESTBROOK PEGLER threw a lot of mud recently at the Florida Cracker because of a lynching in Gadsden county.

It was a nasty, ill-tempered, calumnious bit of writing—a malicious, false indictment of north and west Floridians who pioneered this state.

No wonder the Florida senate got hopping mad, lost its perspective, reached into the verbal gutter to heave the slime at the columnist.

What name-calling! Marianna's Senator Amos H. Lewis out-Peglered Pegler in the exchange.

But to what purpose? It won't change or stop Pegler. It only stirs up a stink that was fast dissipating.

The only good we can see in the senate's verbal explosion is the laugh it will give Columnist Walter Winchell, who was only recently placed by Pegler in that class which Senator Lewis characterizes as a "soul-sick, mud-wallowing, gutter-scum columnist."

How Winchell must roar over that.

Lakeland, Fla., Ledger & Star Tele
May 18, 1941

FLORIDA PRESS ON LYNCHING

Lynching of a 22-year-old negro near Quincy last Monday night for an alleged attempt to assault a 12-year-old white girl is being deplored by newspapers throughout Florida as another regrettable outbreak of lawlessness, and they are urging that Governor Holland insist upon a thorough investigation.

Says the Quincy Times:

> A bunch of nazi-minded citizens went berserk and succeeded in smearing the city across the pages of the newspapers of the nation as a lawless community. On one point, at least, Quincy can hold its head up: The decent citizens with courage to express their thoughts condemn this stupid crime.

Says the Tampa Tribune:

> There is no question that the crime is a blot against the entire state, a stigma that should force all of us to hang our heads in shame. The details of the lynching are revolting. The reports make no mention of positive proof of the negro's guilt. Hot-headed mob justice, as revealed far too often in Florida, has no place in a state that could and should be one of the most law-abiding in the nation.

Says the Miami Herald:

> The stigma that attaches to Quincy becomes a blot on the entire state. The fact that the mob went back and killed the negro when they found he was still alive, after a first lynching attempt had failed, indicates a suspicious freedom for the gang.

Says the Tampa Times:

> Governor Holland should not confine state investigation of the Quincy lynching to his request for a report from the state attorney and the sheriff of Gadsden county. What kind of report can be expected from a sheriff who not only failed to obey the oath of his office to protect the prisoner in jail but also permitted him to be driven in an unguarded ambulance from which it was easy for a gang of hoodlums to retake him and finish their criminal job.

The Ledger already has expressed its regret that such vicious mob violence again has flared up in Florida.

Pensacola, Fla., Journal
May 28, 1941

Day in Legislature

By The Associated Press.

HOUSE

Received bill levying sales tax on property rentals and leases, estimated to raise $9,000,000 annually for old age pensions.

Finance committee approved administration bill tightening collection of intangible taxes.

Finance committee killed proposed three-cent-a-gallon kerosene tax.

Halted night session to hear President Roosevelt's address.

Approved committee study of welfare board operations.

Received proposal for sales tax on razors and blades.

Special committee approved re-shuffling senatorial commit-

tees.

Received proposal to boost salaries of governor and cabinet.

SENATE

Heard biting condemnation of Westbrook Pegler for column criticizing Florida for lynching of Negro.

Committee approved heavier tax on Dade county dog tracks.

Granted peace justices minor criminal jurisdiction in 33 counties.

Authorized 40,000 pounds for commercial trucks.

Voted exemption of tax on one privately-owned 16-foot or smaller salt water boat for each fisherman.

Approved state and county group employe insurance plans.

Joined house in expending workmen's compensation.

Set next Monday night for memorial service for members who have died.

Approved increased staff for state service officer.

Wednesday

House meets at 10 a. m.; senate at 10:30.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
July 1, 1941

A Georgia Mob

From the Baltimore Sun.

At Eastman, Georgia, Wednesday night a mob broke into the local jail, seized a Negro charged with rape and took him out. To this point the story is old, familiar and horrible. But on this occasion, after some hours of consideration, the mob decided that the evidence against the man was not strong enough to justify lynching him. Therefore he was returned to jail, having suffered nothing more than what the Sheriff described as a "light" beating.

This is novel and amazing, but that is all one dare say of it with certainty. Are Georgia mobs becoming conscientious, and if they are, what does the change indicate? Is civilization penetrating the valley of the Ocmulgee, or does this represent degeneration from the days when an occasional human sacrifice to the spirit of white supremacy seemed to be regarded as essential? Time was when, in certain areas, the guilt or innocence of the accused seemed to be regarded as a matter of much less importance than "teaching a lesson" to the subjugated race. There have been some lynchings, in fact, when the lesson seemed less important than the provision of a public festival that had, in his beastliness, a kinship with the orgies staged among the more degraded cults of the Negroes themselves.

In this case it is plain that the action of the mob was based on something different, but what the new basis is one hardly dare venture to guess.

6688

Atlanta, Ga Constitution
May 19, 1941

FAIR ENOUGH

By WESTBROOK PEGLER.

Horror In Florida. NEW YORK, May 18. — According to the newspaper accounts, the lynching of a Negro in a little town in northwestern Florida a few nights ago was an episode which, for bestiality, could be matched only in cultural exercises of the super-race of Adolf Hitler. Suspected but not yet formally accused of criminal assault on a white child, the victim was roped to a tree, shot and left for dead, but crawled to a refuge and there was recaptured by a law officer. He then apparently was surrendered without a struggle to a mob which finished him off.

The section of the country in which this horror occurred is in the social and intellectual slum which, according to the hearsay historians of Florida, was populated by low whites who fled from the other southern states, notably Georgia and Alabama, to escape service in the War Between the States, and the white population is distinguished from the Negroes only in the matter of complexion and other racial characteristics.

It should be easy to catch and convict all the murderers, but any serious attempt to do so probably would result in either local revolution or such a farce as would further discredit the law and civilization.

Many areas of Florida are civilized only in a few outward appearances, for the state still consists largely of frontier and backwoods, and we deceive ourselves by imagining that frontiersmen and backwoodsmen are all brave, chivalrous characters. The robbers and killers of the old west, glamorized in song and story out of all resemblance to their diseased and dirty criminal character, were, in fact, no better than the common city gunman or the backwoods lyncher of today.

Adolescent State. Florida is an adolescent, irresponsible and, thus far, incorrigible state whose most respected political and civic leaders in the urban areas have frankly insisted that it is necessary, in the interests of progress and prosperity, to connive at crime and build on vice and official corruption. Knowing, for example, that a gambling house cannot operate openly without the corrupt consent of the local officials, many of these leaders hold, nevertheless, that if gambling were put down the tourists would go elsewhere and business would suffer.

In the crude back country the conditions of life are primitive, and habitations may be seen from the highway in which there are neither panes nor screens to the windows, and creatures having the physical appearances of human beings live in such squalor as to revolt the very buzzards.

It is not to scold the people or the state that such observations are made, but rather to indicate how it can be that white men, claiming to be members of a superior breed, can so degrade themselves and embarrass the race in which they hold technical membership in an effort to impress their superiority on their Negro neighbors. Ignorance and brutality die hard and slowly in certain strains of Florida Caucasians and resist such refinements as electric signs, the radio, plumbing and paving, even on the luxury coast of the Atlantic.

Only two years ago, in one of the oldest and most sedate cities of the coast, a community where wealth abounds and books have been reported, a Negro taximan ran down a white child in a traffic accident and was taken from the hands of the law by relatives of the deceased and shot under the law of flight in the presence of a little party of shocked and frightened tourists. This was duly listed as a lynching in the annual score, whereas it was plainly a common, premeditated murder which could have been punished by the death penalty if the morality and the public opinion had existed.

No Excuse For Lynching. There is never any reason or excuse for the lynching of a Negro in Florida, and it must be added that the worse the crime the less the white man need concern himself about a miscarriage of justice. In the most recent case the prisoner would have got his promptly and in full measure had the law been allowed to take its course, but the killers doubtless were afraid that on his trial the accused might prove his innocence or import from the north some lawyer who would demonstrate that the victim tempted him and, anyway, that he wasn't in the state of Florida at the time but studying in class at the College of the City of New York.

Civilization can't be hurried in the Florida swamps and backwoods, on either the whites or Negroes. Each degrades the other, but the white man has moments when he can really show the Negro a very recognizable stump of the tail by which his not so remote ancestors swung from tangled vines amid the stunted trees.

Quitman, Ga., Free-Press
May 22, 1941

Westbrook Pegler, newspaper columnist, says some terrible things about "Horror in Florida" in connection with the lynching of a negro in North Florida ... "social and tellectual slum which for bestiality could be matched only in the cultural exercises of the super-race of Adolph Hitler" and more to the same effect. Low as we are in this part of the world, we can look to Mr. Pegler's New York as an example of the humane and enlightened heights to which man can attain. Maybe sometime we shall be fit to polish the shoes of one of the lowest of the New York gangsters.

Eufaula, Ala. Tribune
May 24, 1941

Lynching Deplored

The lynch-murder of a negro accused of criminal assault upon a white girl in Florida recently can bring only misgivings to the hearts of clear-thinking citizens who realize the great harm an incident of this kind does to a community, a state and the South in particular.

What makes this case even worse is the fact that the mob shot the negro down once and left him for dead; then learning that he had been revived and was being taken to a hospital, waylaid the ambulance and took the negro away to complete the task of killing him. The two attacks prove that the murder was not committed at the height of rage but was a premeditated affair.

Coming at a time when there is still agitation in the national Congress for an anti-lynch law, directed at the South, this is a deplorable event in more ways than one.

We have no wish to discuss the guilt or innocence of the victim; it is the lynch-murder in which we are interested. There are courts of the land to see that justice is done in a case of this kind and this procedure would have been followed in the present case. Lynch law is always to be condemned, no matter what the circumstances, as is the taking of the law into one's hands in any other matter. The members of a lynching mob are just as much criminals as the accused person they murder; in this case even more so, for the negro had not been proved guilty while the mobsters knew they were guilty of violating the law when they took his life.—Anniston Star.

Pensacola, Fla. News
May 19, 1941

Others' Editorials

Opinions in the State and Nation

LYNCHING DEPLORED

The lynch-murder of a Negro accused of criminal assault upon a white girl in Florida recently can bring only misgivings to the hearts of clear-thinking citizens who realize the great harm an incident of this kind does to a community, a state and the South in particular.

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6688

Ft. Myers, Fla., News Press
May 24, 1941

SENTIMENT ON LYNCHING

Westbrook Pegler, the gadfly of journalism, has gone and sullied the fair name of Florida again. This time it was over a lynching up in Quincy which achieved wide publicity because the necktie didn't take the first time and they had to come back and get the negro from the sheriff to complete the job. However, it wasn't this nonchalant inefficiency that set Pegler off. Barely mentioning the unusual circumstances that made the incident such a startling performance, Pegler exploded with a blast that it was typical of Florida where he says a lot of low-down scum acts that way just naturally and so forth and so forth, the unspeakable wretches.

He was particularly caustic about the Quincy section and its forebears, so much so that Editor Johnny Kilgore, rushing to the defense in the neighboring Tallahassee Democrat, accused him of "lynching a whole community" in his vicious version of responsibility. The Tampa Tribune, which runs the column, also tut-tutted its exasperating correspondent most severely, maintaining that his fulminations should be copiously salted because of his well-known habit of hauling off to take a swipe at Florida ever so often, usually in the very same vein. The St. Petersburg Independent, another paper in which the column appears, likewise decried "the language used" but couldn't analyze the indictment to find more than five per cent factual fault. The Independent thought he had laid it on too thick, but not any thicker than he has plastered Madam "Putty" Perkins, John "Longwords" Lewis and some others, to the applause of the same Florida galleries which are now hissing with outraged indignation. If we can cheer when he dishes it out we ought to be able to take it, the Independent says, and that is a pretty fair newspaper decision.

—That being his way, and what his public buys, Pegler undoubtedly went to excess in getting his dander up. But, for that matter, some of the editorial dissent was not exactly a model of under-statement. Rebuking Pegler for trying to "tobacco road" the whole state, the Tribune says he shouldn't do it because "he knows well enough that 999 of every 1,000 Floridians deplore and denounce lynchings in any form." Pegler probably doesn't know anything of the kind and we doubt if the Tribune does, on giving the matter second thought. In a town of around 10,000 like Fort Myers it would mean that all but 10 people would "denounce and deplore" the lynching of a negro who had criminally assaulted a 12-year old white girl and if the crime were in these parts we dare say that far more than one in a thousand would feel that the fiend got what was coming to him.

And by no means would they all be people with low and brutal instincts. Among them would be many who would have in mind, as Pegler himself mentioned, that on behalf of the accused there might be "imported from the North a lawyer who would demonstrate that the defendant had been tempted by his victim, or that he wasn't in the state of Florida at the time but studying in class at the (communistic and unsegregated) College of the City of New York. Under changes of venue and by other legalistic devices, that has been done and it hasn't made for anything like 1,000-to-1 confidence that justice can be allowed to take its course.

Although it is not being hastened by the fingers in the pie to which Pegler pointed in scattering his grapes of wrath, the day may be approaching when the forms of law will prove adequate for dealing with problems growing out of the proximity of unassimilable races in the South. In the meantime a good many responsible citizens will continue to place corollary reliance in a code of behavior which custom has decreed and under which whites and blacks have managed to live in an amity which is only occasionally marred by regrettable incidents.

Birmingham, Ala. News
May 21, 1941

LYNCHING DEPLORED

The lynch-murder of a Negro accused of criminal assault upon a white girl in Florida recently can bring only misgivings to the hearts of clear-thinking citizens who realize the great harm an incident of this kind does to a community, a state and the South in particular.

What makes this case even worse is the fact that the mob shot the Negro down once and left him for dead; then learning that he had been revived and was being taken to a hospital, waylaid the ambulance and took the Negro away to complete the task of killing him. The two attacks prove that the murder was not committed at the height of rage but was a premeditated affair.

Coming at a time when there is still agitation in the National Congress for an anti-lynch law, directed at the South, this is a deplorable event in more ways than one.

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Birmingham, Ala. News
May 26, 1941

A BROKEN RECORD

In Quincy, Fla., last week occurred the first officially recorded lynching of the year. A masked band shot a Negro to death. Again the law of decency and inhumanity has been broken; again the South has to bow in shame for a needless atrocity committed; again hatred and cruelty have ruled to snuff out another life without trial, without justice.

When will the South educate its mind to sanity, fairness and honesty while dealing with its Negro criminals? When can the public murder of its citizens by lawless bands cease to be tolerated? Is it just a dream that all people in the United States are to be meted justice equally for crimes committed, or will lynchings continue to end the lives of some of our people?

Four months without a lynching in the United States and a perfect record broken in the fifth!—Hale County News (Moundville).

Tampa, Fla., Tribune
May 28, 1941

FINE PEOPLE

TAMPA.—Mr. Pegler: In regards to lynching in North Florida, what have you to say of the fine people up there? There are no finer people anywhere than those in North Florida. The negro will go to them for a favor quicker than they will a Northerner any day. You had a lot to say about the suffering of this poor negro before he was lynched but did not have a word to say of this poor little girl in the hands of this black brute. LOUIS HARRELL.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
May 31, 1941

THE GOOD PEOPLE OF QUINCY

She had not been to the editorial office on many previous occasions. But her sense of justice had been so outraged that she felt called upon to seek help in correcting the matter.

Westbrook Pegler, the columnist with poisonous typewriter and the penchant for going off at angles both good and bad, was the object of her ire.

Pegler, it seems, wrote a column on a recent lynching in Quincy, Florida (one of the most barbaric in Southern history). He didn't stop with condemning the lynchers, but made some further comments on the background of the area in which the lynching occurred. The people in that particular section of Florida, according to Pegler, were descendants of a group of scrub Southerners who ran off and refused to fight for the Confederacy.

The visitor was outraged. Some of the best people in the world, both white and Negro, are from that area, she pointed out. The section's history goes back over a hundred years. It was outrageous to indict every man, woman and child for no other reason than that a few of their number had been guilty of lynching.

There is no doubt that there are noble men and women in and around Quincy. There is evidence of their nobleness in the clippings left by the visitor. For instance, 18,000 citizens of Gadsden County (in which Quincy is located) have signed up for volunteer defense service in an impressive demonstration of patriotism. The churches of Quincy are filled each Sunday with God-fearing men and women who would not dare break the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill." Nor would they do anything which violated civilized concepts of jurisprudence.

Should the good people of Quincy be blamed for the actions of the bad people of Quincy?

It is not enough that good people refrain from lynching. Stephen, the coat-holder, threw no stones. Good people in the South cannot free themselves from the responsibility of lynching by shrugging their shoulders and saying, "That's white trash business."

If the good people of Quincy acted to prevent the lynching; if they are outraged by what appears to be either gross negligence or gross barbarism on the part of the sheriff; if they have become so ashamed of the blight upon their community that they demand that the guilty parties be punished; if they are determined that such a thing shall never happen again — then they are good people. And if those "ifs" are fulfilled, Westbrook Pegler made a vicious, unwarranted attack upon them.

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SOUTHERN

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Statesville, N. C. Daily
June 20, 1941

Legal Technicalities.

Sheriff John W. Moore finds himself the victim of the legal technicalities of the law he is commissioned to enforce. About the most charitable thing that can be said of his run-in with Washington authorities is that it does not breed respect for law and order among some of us who do not always understand the law's objective, and the roundabout approach the courts employ.

Here was a Negro charged with a heinous crime. At much cost in time and effort and some money, he is traced to Washington by determined and diligent officers. He is identified by his victim and others beyond any reasonable doubt; brought to North Carolina and every precaution employed for his safety and assurance of a fair and just trial in our courts. That is as far as our law enforcement officials can go. The courts take over from there on. And in this case it may turn out that technicalities may be allowed to mommix justice in a big way.

The North Carolina courts have amply demonstrated that Negro offenders get fair trial and a full and intelligent consideration of all evidence they have to offer. If Mace Wellman presents a dependable alibi, it would be recognized as quickly here as in the District of Columbia. So why the necessity, why the determination to take him back to Washington except it be to shield him from justice and blanket him with technicalities which shrewd lawyers know how to sew together.

It may be that Sheriff Moore unwittingly exceeded his authority somewhere along the way, although from the accounting that is not admitted. But that does not alter the fact that in trying to meet the responsibilities of his office, the very law that he serves, flies up and hits him in the face.

In some places it is assumed in advance that a Negro cannot get justice in Southern courts and crusading gullibles have handed together to make their notion of justice more sure; shrewd lawyers fatten from bulging treasuries in just such cases as this with the result that justice is put in reverse. Yet these racial firebrands wonder why there is an occasional lynching.

Elkin, N. C. Tribune
July 3, 1941

When Justice Falters

Last February a 67-year-old Statesville woman was criminally attacked by a Negro man who managed to escape the local officers. Months passed, with local and State law enforcement officials working diligently on the case. A few weeks ago William Wellman was arrested in Washington, the woman went there to aid in his identification. Time after time he was paraded before her along with other prisoners, each time in different clothes and in semi-deceptive make-up, and each time she pointed her finger at the same man.

So satisfactory was this identification to the Washington official that he signified his willingness for the North Carolina authorities to bring him back for trial. But right off Negro attorneys representing the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People intervened. The Negro was carried back to Washington under habeas corpus proceedings, the presiding jurist discharged the writ, but appeal was taken, and the attorneys have ninety days in which to perfect their appeal.

It was an easy matter to offer an alibi: The defense produced witnesses who testified that the Negro was engaged as a day laborer in a nearby Virginia town all during the month of February and particularly on the day of the assault. Construction company records supported their testimony. All of which could easily be arranged, or which, if true would be given just as serious consideration in North Carolina courts as would be accorded in Washington.

Given ninety days, energetic lawyers, backed by a bulging treasury of an organization that is continually seeking a molehill with which to make a mountain and not particular about the tools it uses, will find a way or make one, to free the man and that will be called "Advancement of Colored People." It may not turn out that way, of course, but that is the prospect. And yet many over-zealous souls up nawth wonder why there is an occasional lynching down here.

Every now and then something bobs up to prove that fellow was right who said "the law is a ass."

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
August 18, 1941

Let's Follow Through

North Carolina was spared a shameful disgrace when the efforts of a mob to take a Negro prisoner from the Person County jail and lynch him were frustrated early Saturday morning.

There will be a general relief on the part of all law abiding people that the mob failed in its purpose and that determination of the guilt or innocence of the Negro and infliction of any punishment which may be due him were left to the constituted authorities.

But, relief should not permit the disgraceful affair at Roxboro to end with the occurrence outside the Person County jail. It may be assumed that the Negro who is alleged to have committed rape will be given a fair trial and, if found guilty, will be duly executed.

Unfortunately, no such assumption can be made in regard to members of the mob. In their case guilt is beyond question. But, it is far from certain that they will be punished. In some cases of this kind, it is actually impossible to identify members of a mob. Far more often, inability to identify those in a mob is a convenient fiction, resorted to by officials unwilling to do their duty. In this case, there seems no excuse for even the fiction. Members of the mob acted so boldly as to do a great deal of actual damage to the jail and to the automobiles of the State Highway Patrol.

There has already been some disposition to criticize the Highway Patrol and other officers for their use of tear gas. It may well be that the incident revealed a need for training in the use of such weapons and those responsible for the training of the Patrol and the Durham police force should heed the lesson. But, it is ridiculous to sympathize with members of the mob because gas was used upon them and it is beside the point to argue that the officers of the law were responsible for the damage to the jail because of use or misuse of gas. The central fact is that in dealing with members of the mob officers were dealing with criminals and that the individuals composing the mob forfeited the protection due to law abiding citizens when they associated themselves with an unlawful assemblage.

The State of North Carolina should see to it that members of this mob are brought to account and held accountable for their actions in a criminal court.

Governor Broughton, as the chief law enforcement officer of State, should direct all law enforcement officials immediately concerned, including the SBI and the solicitor of the district, to do their duty. So far, the Governor has made only one public statement on the affair, which he aptly described as "very serious." The Governor properly praised Sheriff M. T. Clayton of Person County for performance of his duty in averting a lynching. The Governor and all the people of the State should now look to Sheriff Clayton to place members of the mob under arrest.

In his statement, Governor Broughton justly condemned Negro members of a CCC camp in Person County for "marching" upon the jail in an effort to "save" the Negro prisoner. The Governor has followed through in respect to that criticism by calling upon national CCC authorities for disciplinary action against those responsible for the "march."

But this business of following through should not be confined to the alleged Negro rapist and the Negro youths in the CCC camp. The State should follow through on the whole business and those participating in an effort to take the law into their own hands should be taught that such things cannot be done in North Carolina with impunity. Proper punishment for members of this mob would do more than anything else could possibly do to prevent mob violence, or attempted mob violence in the future.

Let's follow through!

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
September 5, 1941

LYNCHING

HOMELAND.—I agree with ex-Governor Sholtz, when he said we don't tolerate lynching. However, I favor lynching 100 percent for the usual crime. If any man or woman will stop long enough and think to themselves, suppose the victim was my wife or precious daughter, and then continue to criticize there are no words that I can speak to express what I think they are.

Governor Holland has too much Southern blood and consideration for our women to put much pressure on an investigation of the Quincy lynching.

LEE RICE.

RESPECT FOR SOLDIERS

BRADENTON.—I don't agree with Privates Duncan and Beaty. Wherever I have been, and that's a lot of places in my 70-odd years, I have always found the people had great respect for soldiers. And why not?

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
September 1, 1941

Explanation To Pegler

WHEN Westbrook Pegler indulged in a severe attack on all Florida because of the lynching of a negro prisoner in Gadsden county, we took the columnist to task for his indiscriminate verbal assault on the entire state, and, in our reply to his criticism, we promised him that, when Florida authority took action in the case, (which we said we were confident would be taken) we would promptly advise him and ask that he make due mention of it in his column.

We are reminded that, although this was several months ago, we have not yet been able to mention or record any action by the state authorities on the lynching and, therefore, have not called upon Mr. Pegler to make due acknowledgement of such action in his column—for the valid reason that no such action has been taken.

We recall that, at the time, when it became apparent that the lynching was particularly outrageous, that there was no positive proof of the victim's guilt, that the victim was rescued from a first attempt at lynching and later surrendered to the group which completed the job, Governor Holland called for a "thorough report" from the Sheriff and State Attorney of Gadsden county; and Bishop Wing, of the Episcopal Church, called upon the Governor to suspend the Sheriff. That's the last we have heard of the investigation or of any result of it. So we think it due Mr. Pegler to explain why we haven't asked him to vindicate the good name of Florida in his column, by correcting the aspersions he cast upon the entire state because of a brutal lynching in one county.

Silliness Into Lynch Statistics

The eradication of lynching in the South will not be served by any such broadening of the definition of the term to include such a murder, already sternly punished, as has been put down in this year's statistics against North Carolina's name as one of the three lynchings of the year in the United States.

This murder, which took place in Gaston County last April, can only by distortion be called a lynching. Its description as a lynching makes all other killings everywhere, so classified, suspect as to their true character. Its listing as a lynching does a serious injustice to the Southern State which has had fewer true lynchings across all the years than any other.

Here was a case in which four white hoodlums in the town of Cherryville went on a rampage in which they killed a Negro man. There was absolutely no feeling in the community against the Negro. He was merely the victim of a bunch of drunks. Within 24 hours all of the four white men were arrested and in jail. Within 10 days they had been tried and sentenced to long terms in the penitentiary. The killers, as the State's own courts held, were unquestionable criminals, but they represented only their own drunken violence and reflected the feeling of no part of the community but themselves.

No decent North Carolinian would think of trying to defend these four drunken toughs who picked a fight with an innocent colored man and killed him as a part of it. But North Carolina does resent having their crime listed as a lynching against the name of the State or against the community in the State which promptly demonstrated its stern disapproval by sending two of the white men to prison for from 18 to 25 years and two, one of whom who took no part in the shooting, to prison for from [illegible] years.

Calling such a case a lynching will not help eliminate lynchings but it will help to destroy the value of these lynching statistics in the propaganda against lynching in the South and everywhere else. Undoubtedly it may be true, as some Negro leaders say, that lynchings may be done by smaller groups than old roaring mobs. A few men, of course, could do the violent will of an angered community in resorting to extra-legal measures in snatching defendants from the law and putting them to death. The numbers of the killers is not the essence of definition. Nor is it essential that the victim be a supposed perpetrator of a crime. There may be true lynchings which do not fit old-fashioned definitions. But one of the absolute essentials of any definition is commonsense. In this case that has been absolutely disregarded and the result is not so much an injury to Gaston County and North Carolina as it is a blow to the sense and reliability of lynching statistics.

Despite the Tuskegee announcement, no lynching took place in North Carolina during the period covered by this report. Far otherwise, what did happen was a demonstration that white justice in this State is ready to move sternly and swiftly against rough-neck white roisterers who resort to murderous violence against a Negro. For the friends of the Negro to use this case to stigmatize the State rather than praise it indicates that silliness has taken the place of sense in their statistics. As long as this case is listed among their statistics their value will be reduced and the whole process of effective protest against true lynchings will be delayed.

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SOUTHERN

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Norfolk, Va. Pilot
May 16, 1941

"Our-Way-of-Life" Item

We don't agree with President Hutchins, of the University of Chicago, that before we begin crusading to safeguard "everywhere in the world" the great freedoms of "the American way of life," we should first completely establish these great freedoms at home. Dr. Hutchins, we think, has misstated the nature of the crusade implied in the British-aid dedication, and has predicated our eligibility to take part in this crusade on an unattainable domestic perfectionism.

But that the "American way of life" now the subject of so much patriotic extolling, has its elements of putridity cannot be denied. The right of trial by judge and jury, no matter what the offense, is one of the essential elements of this way of life. How grossly this right is violated, from time to time, is made plain by a lynching in Florida, Tuesday, which attained a new low in repulsiveness. In this case, a young Negro accused of rape was first abducted from the custody of the law by four armed men, and abandoned as dying with ten bullet holes in his body. But the man did not die. A physician, examining him after the first assault, gave him a fairly good chance of recovery. He was placed in an ambulance to be taken to a hospital in Tallahassee. Before he could be brought to the hospital, lynchers intervened a second time. This time they finished the job. "We have virtually no clues to work on," reported the sheriff.

So ends another episode in Southern mob murder. The law had taken hold before the lynchers got to work. The accused was in custody and headed for a trial that would have fitted the punishment to the crime. But that was a form of justice not in accord with the "way-of-life" as it survives in some of our deep Southern backwaters. It is things like these that counsel us to humility when we use the phrase "the American way of life." It has its grandeurs. It also has its unspeakable obscenities.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

MAY 26 1941

A BROKEN RECORD

In Quincy, Fla., last week occurred the first officially recorded lynching of the year. A masked band shot a Negro to death. Again the law of decency and inhumanity has been broken; again the South has to bow in shame for a needless atrocity committed; again hatred and cruelty have ruled to snuff out another life without trial, without justice.

When will the South educate its mind to sanity, fairness and honesty while dealing with its Negro criminals? When can the public murder of its citizens by lawless hands cease to be tolerated? Is it just a dream that all people in the United States are to be meted justice equally for crimes committed, or will lynchings continue to end the lives of some of our people?

Four months without a lynching in the United States and a perfect record broken in the fifth! —Hale County News (Moundville).

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

MAY 9 - 1941

Anti-Lynching Meeting Slated at Americus

AMERICUS, May 8—The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching will sponsor an educational program at the First Methodist church here Friday at 10 a.m.

MAY 9 - 1941

Talks will be made by Mrs. M. E. Tilly, chairman of the Southeastern jurisdiction of Christian social relations of the Methodist church; Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, Mrs. W. A. Turner and Dr. J. B. Lawrence and the Rev. Mack Anthony.

Salisbury, N. C. Post
June 15, 1941

Clipping from Carolina Papers

JUDGE LYNCH HIMSELF

News and Observer

Hideous as lynchings by mobs always are, they are generally explainable by a sort of community frenzy. But no such understanding in mitigation is possible in the case of the Texas judge who saw the premeditated murder of a defendant committed under his own eyes in his court room and then let the killer have his liberty under $500 bond.

Such an action on the part of the judge was worse than any angry community's defense of the act of a mob. Here was a case where a judge on the bench in effect condoned a killing in his court, an assault on justice itself.

Undoubtedly the man who killed in the court room the Negro defendant charged with an attack on his wife had a motive for personal vengeance. He undoubtedly felt that justice moved too slowly when higher courts had given the defendant two new trials. Without condoning his crime, it is possible to understand it. But nothing is so clear in law as the fact that when he came armed to the court house with a motive in his heart and killed a man, he met every item in the definition of first degree murder. His release under $500 bond amounted to such a minimizing of murder as to make Texas justice look uglier than any secret-working mob could have done.

The reputation of the South for civilized, orderly justice has been badly damaged by mobs in the past. How badly it was damaged has been indicated by the rising southern sentiment against such mob crimes. But seldom in the whole history of the substitution of lawless violence for orderly justice has a judge, whose business it was to protect justice from assault, so lightly treated an attack upon justice as in this case.

In a hideous choice, it would still seem to be better to have lynchings by irresponsible mobs than such official condonation of murder in justice's hall itself as took place in Texas. Here was a case in which the spirit which protects lynchers was on justice's own bench. And not all the lynchings in a decade have together made so ugly and so depressing a spectacle as that.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
June 13, 1941

Judge Lynch Himself

Hideous as lynchings by mobs always are, they are generally explainable by a sort of community frenzy. But no such understanding in mitigation is possible in the case of the Texas judge who saw the premeditated murder of a defendant committed under his own eyes in his courtroom and then let the killer have his liberty under $500 bond.

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Anderson, S. C., Independent Tri
June 27, 1941

Mob Seizes Negro Then Returns Him To Jail; "Evidence" Lacking

EASTMAN, Ga., June 26— (AP) —In what is believed an unprecedented "acquittal" in the usually lethal court of "Judge Lynch," a mob dragged a Negro from Dodge County jail and then returned him "for want of evidence."

Deputy Sheriff Gus Lewis said the suspect, Eddie Lee Spivey, 28, had been beaten but not seriously and added "it is my understanding that he wouldn't confess and the crowd didn't feel they could lynch him."

An assault upon a 65-year-old white woman occurred Tuesday in the Mount Ariat section and the Negro was jailed that night, the deputy said.

The mob began forming shortly after noon yesterday, grew to 500 to 700 persons last night and a section stormed the jail, guarded by half a dozen county officers.

Taken from the cell, the Negro was whisked out of town at the head of a line of some 100 automobiles. About midnight the Negro was returned to the jail where, Lewis said, he is held for grand jury action on a charge of attempted assault.

President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute, a keeper of records on lynchings, said as far as he knew the Eastman occurrence was unprecedented.

Elizabeth City, N. C., Advance
June 23, 1941

No Lynch Law in the Albemarle

North Carolina's record in the matter of lynchings has ever been one of the best in the South, if the South be limited to the states that seceded from the Union in 1861.

In the period from 1882 to 1938, a matter of 56 years, North Carolina had only 98 lynchings, as compared with 569 for Mississippi, 517 for Georgia, 488 for Texas, 390 for Louisiana, 344 for Alabama, 285 for Arkansas, 278 for Florida, 158 for South Carolina and 99 for Virginia.

North Carolina's is a better record than that of such border states as Kentucky with 205 lynchings in the same period, Missouri with 121, Oklahoma with 123 and Tennessee with 248.

In the period from 1900 to 1931, North Carolina had a total in 31 years of only 35 lynchings. Only one of these 35 occurred in the Albemarle, according to figures released by Tuskegee Institute, and that was in Bertie County.

For the years since 1931, *The Daily Advance* does not have the Tuskegee figures, but it will be ventured here that there has not been a lynching north of Albemarle Sound in 40 years. It will be admitted that there have been cases in which men took the law into their own hands, but *The Daily Advance* has never counted as a lynching a case in which a man singly took the law into his own hands and then gave himself up. Judge Lynch rules when a mob or an individual usurps the functions of the court under the cover of darkness or masks and refuses to acknowledge the act or to face its consequences.

In other words, it is the regular thing in North Carolina in general, and every county in the Albemarle in particular, not to resort to mob violence but to let the due processes of the courts take their course.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
June 28, 1941

Unprecedented

As far as the records reveal, there has never been an incident like that which occurred in Dodge county this week. A mob seized a Negro suspect, in an assault case, from the county jail and later returned him, alive, beaten but not seriously, "for want of evidence."

The restraint shown by this mob is to be commended, of course. Whatever happened to halt the bloodlust nobody, outside of those present, will ever know. It is probable, however, that one or two men of calmer spirit and more logical mind, were able to exert their influence upon the others and restore the sanity of the entire crowd before lynching had occurred.

It must not be forgotten, however, in relief that this calmer spirit prevailed, that the mob violated one of the most sacred laws of the civilized race when it took the Negro from the jail in the first place.

They have atoned to the best of their ability and, it is to be presumed, the Negro's case will now be handled in full accord with the proper processes of law.

It would have been far better, however, had the mob never formed, had it never invaded the jail and never whisked the Negro away for a private inquisition.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
June 27, 1941

Solution Suggested

In Texas a negro was indicted for assault upon a white woman, convicted and sentenced to death. The state court granted him a new trial. The second time he was tried, convicted and sentenced. The case was carried on appeal to the supreme court of the United States, which ordered a new trial on the ground that the defendant had been ill-treated by officers and a confession forced from him.

While the third trial was in progess, in the state court, the husband of the woman drew a pistol, shot the negro through the head and killed him.

The slayer handed the pistol to an officer and surrendered. Two weeks later he was tried for murder, and the jury, in ten minutes, returned a verdict of not guilty. The man then drove home with his wife.

Whether the negro was guilty or not, The News and Courier of course cannot say, but it would like to know what kind of law Senator Wagner, Senator Van Nuys, the representative for Harlem, the spelling of whose name we do not remember, and other foreigners would frame to fit the Texas case. The slayer of the man on trial was not a lyncher. One man, under the Walter White bills, can't lynch; indeed, seven men are not lynchers when they kill a man in Chicago or New York, though they would be in a Southern state under the anti-lynching bill, the victim being a negro.

The News and Courier offers these foreign congressmen assistance. Let them introduce a bill providing that in the event a man shoot another and that other a negro, while a trial is going on in a state court, the presiding judge, the twelve jurymen, the sheriff, the clerk of court, the bailiffs, the witnesses for the prosecution and the spectators be arrested, indicted for lynching and tried in a federal court. It is unlikely that the president's wife would veto the bill if it should be passed.

The obvious solution of the "Southern question" is the passage by congress of an act to legalize the lynching, by the federal government, of Southern state courts and Southern states.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
October 18, 1941

Why Lynching Is Unpopular

On August 15 a mob in Roxboro, N. C., gathered outside the Person County jail and tried for hours to storm its way inside to get a Negro prisoner charged with attacking a white woman. Eventually the mob was dispersed, and the prisoner was never touched.

In some States to the south of us, the matter would have rested. The governmental and legal authorities would have wiped the incident off the books without further ado. For a time it appeared that North Carolina's authorities might be similarly indifferent, though the press was demanding with fire and determination that the members of the mob be detected and punished. But things were happening.

First, the State Bureau of Investigation collected, apparently, a lot of information. Second, Judge Henry A. Grady, armed with this information, made a spirited appeal to a grand jury for action. And, third, the grand jury has now returned true bills against ten men charged with being members of the mob. They will come up for trial before a special court session next month.

This is progress. At the very least it means that ten men will have to answer in court to the charge that they were members of a mob that sought to storm a jail. If convicted, their punishment does not appear likely to be heavy, since they are charged with a misdemeanor for which the maximum punishment is two years' imprisonment. But, whether these men are convicted or not, all men in North Carolina know better now that they cannot try to take private vengeance into their own hands, in the one-time classical Southern manner, without running the risk of the law's weight falling on them. Nothing else is so effective in discouraging lynchers.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Lynching And Poll Taxes

There are noticeable parallels between the course of anti-lynching agitation and the anti-poll tax fight. Almost the same bloc of Southern states is on the defensive in both cases, and in both agitation for national reform is stimulating state action.

The effort to get Congress to pass a federal law dealing with lynching has pretty well subsided for the time being, in view of the fact that lynching has been almost eradicated by state action. Last year there were only four lynchings, according to Tuskegee Institute; in 1939 only three, and in 1938 six. There is little point in offending state feelings by a federal law against an offense the frequency of which has been so greatly reduced.

FEB 18 1941

Agitation for federal legislation on the poll tax as a requirement for voting is also reported lessening following evidence that the eight Southern states which alone in the nation retain the tax are witnessing local campaigns for its elimination. Here again there is a growing sentiment in Congress against interference with state rights in the matter as long as there is prospect of change.

These are hopeful signs. Lynching, of course, should be wiped out. And if the time has not yet come for complete abolition of the poll tax as the price of the voting privilege, surely favorable action might be taken toward lightening the tax. Especially here in Alabama thought should be given to removal of the cumulative features of the poll tax. In that regard Alabama is the most severe of all the eight states.

FEB 18 1941

But punishment of lynching and fixing the requirements of voting are matters that should be left to the individual states. It is only when states manifest a lethargy or an indifference to general public sentiment on such matters that there is serious probability of congressional action.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
February 17, 1941

Might Be Complications

Senator Byrnes "filibustered" in the senate against the "anti-lynching bill." President Roosevelt is not against it. What if Senator Byrnes, on the supreme bench, should refuse some night to stay the execution of a negro the next morning in a Southern state?

Greenville, S. C. News
January 5, 1941

The State Of THE STATE

By HARRY ASHMORE

3706

LYNCHING RECORD

Among year's end figures published by the statisticians was a set hailed by several South Carolina newspapers with joy. The record showed, as 1940 ended, that the state had again gone through a year without a single lynching, while Georgia and Alabama had two each, and Tennessee had one.



Harry Ashmore

The record is one that warrants enthusiastic editorial comment, but unfortunately the cold figures don't tell the complete story and it would be utterly wrong to conclude because of them that South Carolina is free of the mob spirit that makes a lynching possible.

Just at the end of the year that spirit flared again in Georgetown. There was no lynching, but the only thing that prevented one was the quick action of Georgetown's sheriff in rushing an accused negro rapist to the state penitentiary before a customary mod had time to form.

As it was, some 300 white men stormed the Georgetown jail and forced the sheriff to turn over the 11 shivering negro prisoners. These were paraded before the white woman who said she had been attacked, and but for her failure to identify one as her assailant there would undoubtedly have been murder in Georgetown.

Governor Maybank had to call out the National Guard to preserve order in the little town, and despite the presence of the troops bands of white men swaggered around Georgetown for three days and newspapermen could find no negroes on the streets. The Charleston News and Courier reported that several negroes were beaten by the mob.

* * *

A FINE THING

It is, of course, a fine thing that one life was saved in Georgetown and the state's lynching record remained unblemished for the year, but the incident cannot be used to support the argument of those who have so enthusiastically fought a federal anti-lynching law. On the contrary the story of Georgetown furnishes material for the opposition, for those who argue that local officials fail in their duty can point out that despite the National Guard groups of men were allowed to threaten every negro they saw.

The first mob that formed outside the Georgetown county jail at least had the excuse of being shocked beyond reason by the revolting crime of rape, but the men who were still swept along by the mob spirit three days after the assault occurred have nothing to justify their action except possibly the vague argument that negroes must periodically be put in their place.

If every lynching grew out of rape actual or alleged, it would be easier to understand. But of the five men (four of them were negroes) who were killed by mobs in the South last year only one was accused of attempted rape. In the other four cases lesser offenses spurred unreasoning mobs to take the law in their own hands and commit murder.

And those aren't isolated figures. Dr. Arthur F. Raper in his "The Tragedy of Lynching" furnishes these statistics: Between 1889 and 1930, 3,725 persons were lynched in the United States; four-fifth were negroes; less than one-sixth were accused of rape.

* * *

AN INDICTMENT

Dr. Raper's book contains one of the most lucid indictments of lynching ever written, and professional southerners cannot dismiss it as propaganda for the American Society for the Advancement of Colored People. The book was published by the University of North Carolina press and is based on the findings of a committee of outstanding southerners headed by George Fort Milton, the Chattanooga publisher.

"The lynching rates have been highest in the newer and more sparcely settled sections of the South, where cultural and economic institutions are least stable and officers of the law fartherest apart, poorest paid, and most dependent upon local sentiment," Dr. Raper found.

Here are some other conclusions:

"Of the 21 persons lynched in 1930, many were captured after extended man-hunts organized by undeputized, armed men who used bloodhounds and conducted some type of mock trial before the lynching. Though tow of the victims were unaccused and there is grave doubt as to the guilt of many more, the finds of these mob trials were the lynchers' assurance that their victims were guilty. . . .

"Of the tens of thousands of lynchers and onlookers, the latter not guiltless, only 49 persons were indicted and only four sentenced. (This is since 1889.) Chief among the factors rendering the courts ineffective was the prevalent indifference of peace officers and court officials and the apathy of the general white public concerning matters effecting negroes."

* * *

BASIC CAUSE

The italics are mine, put there because they seem to sum up the basic cause of the crime of lynching. Newspaper accounts of the near-lynching in Georgetown indicate that the sheriff and the troops did all they could and that due to their efforts a negro's life was saved.

The mobs that walked the streets and beat up all the negroes who refused to obey their orders to get out of sight were probably beyond the control of the authorities; an effort to break them up might have brought on a real race riot.

But the mob couldn't have stormed the jail and patroled the streets of Georgetown for three days if the mass of white citizens hadn't approved or at least condoned their action.

Shortly after the Georgetown incident the Charleston News and Courier printed an editorial which placed the blame for lynchings on the inefficiency of the court system and argued that many of them could be prevented if the general public were assured of speedy trial of offenders.

That might help—although I personally can't see that anyone in South Carolina needs any assurance that a negro rapist is going to be brought to trial—but I'm afraid the lynching problem can't be solved that simply.

It goes deep and has its roots in ignorance and intolerance and sadism, the human qualities that have been enthroned in Germany and Italy and Japan. The mob that patroled the streets of Georgetown were motivated by the same unreason that sends Hitler's boys raging into the ghettoes.

So long as such things happen South Carolina's representatives in Washington can't make out much of a case against a federal anti-lynching law.

Cordele, Ga. News
February 27, 1941

Chicago reports "only" nine persons slain in gang wars in that city during 1940. Yet they talk about the South and its lynchings. There is a difference between lynchings and gangster killings. Lynchings almost invariably involve a crime against law; gangster killings usually result from violations of the rules of law violators.—Tifton Gazette.

West Palm Beach, Fla. Post
May 14, 1941

MORE AMMUNITION

Florida supplied more ammunition to advocates of Federal anti-lynching legislation this week.

Double lynchings are not unusual, but it isn't often that one person is lynched twice and those who want Congress to act against mob-law may be expected to make the most of the Quincy case.

Newspaper reports indicate it is made to order for that purpose. Sheriff Luten said he "wasn't dreaming of any such thing" and there were no extra guards at the Gadsden jail when four or five men took out A. C. Williams, a negro charged with an attempted assault on a 12-year-old white girl.

Williams with eight or 10 bullet holes in his body was later found in a negro residence outside Quincy. Still not "suspecting trouble," the sheriff placed the half-dead victim in an ambulance and started him off to a Tallahassee hospital without guards. On the way another armed band stopped the ambulance and dragged Williams out, the unarmed negro driver naturally offering no resistance.

This happened Monday night and Tuesday officers were still searching for the negro's body.

To say the least, this apparently glaring instance of official negligence calls for investigation. Unfortunately, not many more such cases will be required to convince Congress that it ought to pass the anti-lynching bill, unfair and probably ineffective as it is.

Anniston, Ala. Star
May 15, 1941

Lynching Deplored

The lynch-murder of a Negro accused of criminal assault upon a white girl in Florida recently can bring only misgivings to the hearts of clear-thinking citizens who realize the great harm an incident of this kind does to a community, a state and the South in particular.

What makes this case even worse is the fact that the mob shot the Negro down once and left him for dead; then learning that he had been revived and was being taken to a hospital, waylaid the ambulance and took the Negro away to complete the task of killing him. The two attacks prove that the murder was not committed at the height of rage but was a premeditated affair.

Coming at a time when there is still agitation in the National Congress for an anti-lynch law, directed at the South, this is a deplorable event in more ways than one.

We have no wish to discuss the guilt or innocence of the victim; it is the lynch-murder in which we are interested. There are courts of the land to see that justice is done in a case of this kind and this procedure would have been followed in the present case. Lynch law is always to be condemned, no matter what the circumstances, as is the taking of the law into one's hands in any other matter. The members of a lynching mob are just as much criminals as the accused person they murder; in this case even more so, for the Negro had not been proved guilty while the mobsters knew they were guilty of violating the law when they took his life.

Asheville, N. C. Citizen
May 14, 1941

SHAME

The South has made so much progress in recent years in exterminating the lynching evil that the news of the mob slaying of a negro in Florida will come as a distinct shock to the people of this section.

The lynching was, of course, indefensible. It can not be justified by any standard which civilized people accept. It was a reversion to barbarism, a blow at the supremacy of organized society itself.

Bad as the lynching was, it will be infinitely worse if the culprits are not brought to justice. The duty of the State of Florida is obvious. It should not rest until the guilty persons are detected, convicted and punished with the utmost severity of the law.

Albany, Ga., Herald
May 17, 1941

LYNCHING DAMAGE.

Lynchings cannot be justified on any grounds. They are lawless, humiliating to communities in which they occur, and hurtful to the kind of government we have in this country.

It is pointed out by the New York Times that a lynching anywhere in the United States is comforting to Nazi propagandists, who make the most of any backsliding within the democracies.

"Nothing that can happen in this country is better grist for the Nazi propaganda mill than a lynching," says The Times. "Even though the number of such killings has declined in recent years; even though we are, on the whole, a law-abiding nation and, on the whole, give every accused man his day in court—in spite of these facts, every lynching proves that at some time in some community our people are not living up to their pretensions."

It is therefore literally true that the unknown men who killed a Negro prisoner near Quincy, Fla., on Tuesday morning were doubly steeped in crime," the New York paper thinks. It says: "They murdered a human being who had not been convicted of a crime, though he may have been guilty of one. They also betrayed their country. Nor can the Sheriff, who did not provide an adequate guard, or the State Attorney, who can find 'no clues to identify the slayers,' be absolved.

"Public opinion, backed by efficient police action, can put a stop to lynchings. Something is rotten in any area in which they repeatedly occur and in which the guilty men go unpunished. North, South, East or West, any truly American community can and will end this scandal."

Lynchings don't make sense. It is the law that's lynched—the same law to which lynchers appeal on those rare occasions when they are apprehended and brought to trial. The same law that protects their property (if by chance they own property). The law that guarantees to every man the assumption of innocence till he is convicted in a court of justice by a jury of his peers.

It is true that we now have few lynchings in states where once they were common, but even one a year is one too many. It humiliates the state in which it occurs. It does irreparable harm to justice.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
May 16, 1941

Lynching and Treason

[*New York Times*]

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Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Murder and Background

From the Richmond Times-Dispatch

The lynching of a Negro at Quincy, Fla., on Tuesday, occurred under circumstances of more flagrant neglect by the sheriff than many similar cases of mob violence in some of the darkest years of the history of this peculiarly American crime. In most cases of lynching, the sheriff has made much more pretense of giving his prisoner protection, than in this instance. There were other unusual aspects of this case. While the accused man was MAY 24 1941 of attempted assault upon a 12-year-old white girl, no formal charge had been placed against him. The most extraordinary feature of the case, is that the victim was twice taken from his legal protectors.

Only four masked men wrested him from the sheriff the first time. He was taken from the jail, beaten and shot, and left for dead. The men had not done their work well. Their victim dragged himself to the home of another Negro near Quincy. There he was again picked up by the sheriff, to be taken in an unguarded ambulance to Tallahassee. News of this fact leaked out in some mysterious way, and this time a band of masked men did their work well. The man they had condemned to death without trial, was killed.

The people who administered this summary execution, with horrible brutality, may have been among their victim's accusers, but since no formal charge was made, how do we know that it had any basis whatever? There is no doubt that many innocent men have been lynched.

* * MAY 24 1941

There is really little chance that we shall ever finally banish the crime of lynching in the South, until we have done much more about the background which supplies such a favorable setting for the crime. When there is a wider realization that the Negro should have greater opportunity to live and to work, there will be a relaxation of the pressure designed to hold him down. The year 1919, when thousands of white men who had been in the military and naval services returned to seek their jobs in the South, was the worst year in the modern history of lynching. There were 83 lynchings in the United States that year, and 76 of the vicctims were Negroes.

Lynchings have declined, and Negroes have gained more political rights than enjoyed in 1919, but we doubt nevertheless, whether their economic condition in the South has improved. It may even be worse than it was 20 or 30 years ago. The Negro has been shoved out of the skilled trades, and pushed off the best agricultural land. Although the thought is one we should like to dismiss, perhaps one reason why lynchings have declined is that the Negro is in a more hopeless position than ever to compete economically with the [illegible]

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SOUTHERN

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Hendersonville, N. C., Times-News
December 8, 1941

PREDICAMENT OF A P. C.

Louis (Lepke") Buchalter, who, from the publi journals of the day, we take to be a prominen citizen of New York City, and "the most powerfu industrial racketeer in the city's history," has beer convicted of murder and sentenced to death, bu an appeal will be taken and "many months" wil elapse before a decision shall be handed down.

Two of Lepke's mates have also been sentenced to death, and Lepke is believed to have ordered the deaths of many rival gangsters, extortion victim and actual or potential witnesses against him.

This citizen of New York has been practcing his profession a long time, and his conviction "is a goa which the police and a variety of prosecutors have sought for more than ten years."

Had this New York P. C. been the head of a gang operating in South Carolina and putting to death numbers of persons in a period of ten years and longer, they would have been described as lynchers, however no gang in South Carolina or in the South has to this time adopted and practiced lynching as a profession.

Our information, or impression, is that, in the event of the enactment of Senator Wagner's anti-lynching bill, prominent New Yorkers of the Lepke cult will be exempt from its provisions. One of the requirements in the New York definition of a southern lynching is that it shall be done by a mob performing somewhat openly and with invitation to the neighbors to attend the show. Anyway, southern lynchings are usually of tat kind. They are denounced in New York because they are nearly always in a Jim Crow category.

When a gang kills another man and employs the methods of assassins, shooting him in the back or slitting his throat when he is not looking, it cannot be thought of as a lynching. A lynching is a crude affair, carried out in a clumsy and vulgar manner.

One learns from the newspapers of New York that a number of negroes in Harlem have organized and acquired the arts of slaughtering persons secretly, though it is not intimated that they conform to the accepted standards of lynchers, South or West.

That Louis ("Lepke") Buchalter has been the most powerful industrial racketeer in New York in the city's history and, after ordering a numerous assortment of murders and assassinations, has escaped punishment ten years, establishes his title as a Prominent Citizen.—Charleston News and Courier.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
December 13, 1941

A Lesson To Lynchers

Criticism against the citizens and state of Georgia has been hurled with abandon on various occasions recently. It is indeed time for praise, and happily we find it in the case of a Georgia negro who was released by a mob all set for a lynching and later acquitted on a criminal assault charge.

The case goes back to June, when Eddie Lee Spivey, young negro farmer, was removed from the Dodge county jail by the mob. Taken to the woods near the scene of the alleged crime, the negro voiced his innocence with such conviction that the lynchers hesitated and finally returned him to jail.

He was given a legal trial last week and freed by a jury of white men, who required less than two hours to reach their verdict. Thus did justice, democratic justice, triumph over the kind of anarchy that is so rampant in the world today.

Georgians should be proud of that verdict. Although we condemn the mob spirit, we commend the men who formed the mob on their decision to let the law, not human hands, end the case. The handling of the case sets an example that should be followed over and over again.

Chattanooga, Tenn. Daily Times
December 12, 1941

'Lynch Law'

From the Atlanta Journal.

In Bibb Superior Court last week came the end of the most unusual case of lynch law in Georgia annals. Last June, a young Negro farmer, accused of criminal assault, was removed from the Dodge County Jail by a mob which said it was going to lynch him. He was taken to the woods near the scene of the alleged crime; there he denied his guilt with such earnestness that doubts arose among the lynchers, and they sought the support of an identification. The victim could not be positive, and the Negro was taken back to jail, but not without severe maltreatment.

He was given a legal trial in a changed venue, was prosecuted by the able solicitor of the Bibb Court, and was found innocent by a jury of white men who required only one hour and fifty minutes to reach their verdict.

"I think the Lord saved me for a purpose," said the Negro, upon his release.

If the facts of the case of Eddie Lee Spivey bring to the consciousness of all Georgia the horror of the crime of lynching—the sheer anarchy of the act and the terrible uncertainty in the judgments so reached—then the Lord truly will have used his suffering and his exoneration for the good of our State.

Laurens, S. C., Advertiser
November 27, 1941

Five Lynchings in U. S.

But five lynchings took place in the United States in 1939. Three of the victims were Negroes. There were 19 kidnapings, as compared with 37 in 1938.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
December 3, 1941

Significant Change

It is deplorable and horrible that a Negro should attack a white woman in Forsyth county in the manner that Sam Hairston is alleged to have done.

But there is a significant angle to the incident. There are Forsyth citizens who can remember when such a criminal immoral assault upon a white woman would have inevitably produced a mob.

There is no apparent loud hue and cry —excitement—over the Salem Chapel case, although it was an aggravated one, the Negro's victim being an invalid white woman. We do not believe any grave excitement will prevail between now and the time of Hairston's trial.

Our citizens are not indifferent to the demands of justice in this case. But reason controls the emotional impulses. We know that justice will prevail when and if the law is allowed to take its course. We know that we cannot improve upon the even-handed justice of the courts by madly and foolishly invoking Judge Lynch.

Thus the people of Forsyth have come a long way in their thinking with respect to interracial relationships and the single standard of justice within recent years. They have come to lean more and more upon the strong arm of intelligence and to listen more intently to reason's calm counsel.

In this atmosphere of sanity justice will be done in the Hairston case, and our county will have all the more reason to take pride in the level of its intelligence and the strong bonds of understanding and co-operation which have grown up between the two races.

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Pensacola, Fla. News
December 15, 1941

Others' Editorials

Opinions In the State and Nation

ALABAMIAN KEY MAN IN STRIKE CRISIS

Back in the August-September days of 1933 a mild-mannered professor of sociology and economics at Alabama college, Montevallo, visited in Tuscaloosa. It was just after the lynching of two Negroes at the outgrowth of the Vaudine Maddox murder in this county.

This professor came here to seek information about the case, and especially to study the psychology behind it. He was mistaken for a "New York lawyer" and was "waited upon" by a "citizens committee" at a local hotel. After some discussion, during which the professor gave the committee a lecture, and explained his mission, the educator returned to bed. The next day he said that he had "enjoyed the experience."

Today that same professor, Dr. John R. Steelman, is the "key man" in the United States strike picture. He was appointed Saturday as the chairman and "public representative" on the 3-man board that will decide the issues in the "captive coal mine strike." Both the steel companies and the CIO-affiliated United Mine Workers of America have agreed to accept the board's finding. Press dispatches say it is obvious that Dr. Steelman will make the decision in this strike which has dramatized the entire labor picture, and which may have great weight in any congressional legislation considered.

Eight years ago Dr. Steelman came to Tuscaloosa largely as a "theorist" trying to find out practical realities in race relations. Today he is backed by an immense experience in settlement of strikes. It has been his business and his responsibility since late in 1934. We surmise that he is a considerably different type of fellow from the professor who visited here in 1933.

Dr. Steelman has a working background. He was born on a farm near Thornton, Arkansas, 40 years ago. He worked as a logger, a sawmill hand, a waiter on tables to pay his way through college, a salesman of books and life insurance, and a wheat harvester. He secured degrees from Henderson-Brown college in Arkansas, Vanderbilt (for a master's) at Harvard and at North Carolina (for a Ph.D.) He went to Montevallo in 1928.

He would probably have remained at Montevallo much longer had not Perkins made a speech there in 1934. There they met each other. Within less than a year Dr. Steelman was called into the U. S. conciliation service as a commissioner, the first chosen from the South. In 1937 he became director of this service with 110 commissioners and conciliators under him.

In all his conciliation efforts he has had little positive power or authority over the opposing forces. The whole set-up has been one of persuasion. It has been said "he can only reason, plead—and maybe bluff a little."

Those who recall the mild manner and soft voice of the Montevallo professor should not be deluded into the belief that John L. Lewis, the CIO representative, and Benjamin F. Fairless, the company board member, are going to head-hammer this associate on the board.

Dr. Steelman weighs some 200 pounds. He can swap hard words with any of them. He can give term for term in any discussion from economics to profanity. In recent years he has been offered many big, lucrative positions in private industry. His answer has been "No, Hell, this is too much fun."—Tuscaloosa News.

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MARYLAND

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Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Insanity Plea Filed In Attack Case

FEB 8 1941

Trial of French Lee White, colored, of Bethesda, Md., on charges of criminally assaulting a white Bethesda domestic November 22, 1940, was halted yesterday when defense counsel entered a plea of insanity. Judge Charles W. Woodward said he would order the man examined by the State board of mental hygiene.

State's Attorney Ben G. Wilkinson was ready to proceed with the case and a panel of veniremen had been summoned in preparation for the hearing. Defense Counsel, Edward H. Northrup, F. Bernard Welsh and John Reeves filed the motion at 9:30 a. m.

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Southern News
Almanac
Birmingham, Ala.

51 Cases Of "Violent Terror" Against Negro People Listed By ILD

Fifty-one cases of "violent terror against the Negro people" in the United States from January 1 to June 15, 1941, are reported in a release from the International Labor Defense. It listed four lynchings.

Included among the cases which they review are five in Alabama, eight in Georgia, four in Florida, seven in Louisiana, two in Mississippi, two in North Carolina, three in South Carolina, two in Tennessee, two in Texas, one in Oklahoma, one in Arkansas, one in Washington, D. C., two in Ohio, seven in New York, one in Illinois and three in California.

The lynchings occurred in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina. Georgia had two. First in Georgia listed is that of Private Felix Hall, young Alabama farm boy, who was "missing from February 14 to March 28. The decomposing body of this young Negro soldier was found hanging from a tree near the army post where he was serving. Body still in uniform."

Robert Sapp, of Blakely, Ga., was the other Georgia lynch victim listed. The case was described as follows: 'Mechanic's helper. 'Suspected' of stealing. Beaten insensible by three white men using clubs and machine belting. Died six days later in hospital which listed cause of death as 'pneumonia'."

LYNCHED TWICE

A. C. Williams, of Quincy, Fla., was lynched twice. "Seriously injured," the release states, "when lynch mob dragged him from jail where he was held on "rape" charge. Left him for dead. When they discovered he was being taken to safety in an ambulance, mob tore him from that, tied him to a tree and riddled his body with bullets."

The North Caroline lynch victim was Robert Melker, of Cherryville. The release said: "Lynched in his own home, defending himself and his wife from unprovoked attack by group of white men. Had run into house for refuge."

ALABAMA CASES

Leading the list of the Alabama cases is that of John Jackson, Birmingham steel worker, who was killed in Fairfield in April. The ILD listed the case as follows: "Beaten almost to death by Policeman Hubert Alexander, for laughing loudly at a joke, when officers had ordered a group to 'move on.' Killed in police car on way to station. Shot 4 times."

Other Alabama cases included the sooting of Dorothy Greenwood, 13, of Montgomery. The report says, "Shot through head by police who entered her home allegedly 'to investigate a disturbance.' Bullet entered child's brain. Permanent injury likely."

The other Alabama cases were in Birmingham. They included James Daniel, 11, "leg fractured by bullet ifred by policeman who ordered him and two other children to halt as they played on a vacant lot." Nels[illegible] Hogan, union coal miner, was "shot in back by dog catcher because he resisted efforts to seize his dog." The Foster Powers case was described as follows: "Policeman Mason attacked this young worker in full sight of about 400 people. Beat him with a black-jack and butt end of police revolver. Further beaten in police station. Case dismissed, May 2, because of 'mental incapacity' of sick victim."

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

ILD Lists 4 Lynchings, Five Near Lynchings

NEW YORK — Fifty-one cases of wanton abuse of the rights of colored American citizens were reported in a Civil Rights Survey conducted by the International Labor Defense for the six months, January 1 to June 1.

Four lynchings, five near lynchings, eleven cases classified as murder, eleven beatings, two cases of rape, five shootings, one mock lynching, two questionable prison sentences, one bombing, three cases of terrorization, one case of peonage and two of torture are listed.

Probably the most startling of the four lynching cases reported in the survey is that of A. C. Williams who is listed as having been lynched twice by a mob in Quincy, Fla.

Sixteen States Listed

Sixteen States are listed as harborers of perpetrators of the violations from New York, south through the cotton belt to Florida, and west to California.

Even in the face of the nation's all-out effort for national defense, to preserve the American way of life, five cases involving army personnel are listed. Heading this group is the death of Pvt. Felix Hall at Ft. Benning, Ga., a case as yet unsolved, which the ILD classifies as a lynching.

Circumstances of other cases involve the beating of a draftee at Fort Bragg, N.C., and the subsequent gassing by police brandishing machine guns of fellow draftees who gathered in front of the police station in protest.

Gestapo Tactics

Another case of military police activity, described as "similar to Gestapo tactics of Hitler against the Jews," in patroling colored neighborhoods in Columbia, S.C., is listed.

A California youth was sentenced to 65 years imprisonment on an assault charge brought by a 17-year-old girl and two Southern army officers, one of whom is quoted as having stated: "In Alabama we know how to treat 'n——s."

In Alabama, a man was beaten almost to death for laughing at a joke after an officer had told a group of loiterers to "move on." He was shot four times and killed in a police car on the way to the station, the report states.

Raped by Policeman

In the same State, a 13-year-old child was shot through the head by officers who entered her home allegedly to "investigate a disturbance." Permanent injury is likely.

In New York, an officer reportedly forced two girls into a furnished room where he attacked one of them. A 12-year-old patient was reportedly ravished by a white engineer employee of a Long Island hospital.

In California, six colored students were lynched in effigy on a school campus.

Died of "Pneumonia"

Records of the causes of death in many of the cases reported are equally as revolting as the facts themselves. A Georgia mechanics helper, suspected of stealing, reportedly died of "pneumonia" after having been severely beaten by three white men. Another youth, shot in the back by an officer, died of "excessive loss of blood."

In Louisiana, twelve men, reportedly forced to work under conditions akin to slavery, escaped from a plantation owned by a State legislator. One of the escaped men reported his father killed and his mother wounded in a break for freedom.

Reign of Terror

In Ohio, a 24-year-old youth was beaten into insensibility by officers for having stepped on the porch of a white family's home to ask an address. The mayor of a Tennessee city is reported to have ordered mass terrorization of militant colored business men, newspapermen and other citizens.

Without precedent in the ILD or any other record is the courtroom slaying of Bob White at Conroe, Texas, on June 10. His murderer was acquitted in a two-minute trial two days later. In Dallas, Texas, the fifteenth of a series of bombings of colored homes was reported on May 7.

Case histories of other abuses are equally or more distracting.

This is the great American paradox.

Widespread Terror Used on Negroes, ILD Survey Shows

Fifteen States Covered in Study Guilty of Brutality

On the home front in the war against fascism — particularly in that sector embracing the Negro people — the International Labor Defense has just issued what might be called a communique detailing the enemy's recent operations. It is entitled "Violence, Terror Against the Negro People" and it covers the first half of 1941.

This civil rights survey of the ILD is arranged in the form of a chart divided into sections headed "Date and Place," "Victim," "Type of Violence" and "Circumstances." These specific heads come under the general heads of the states in which the acts of violence occured. For instance: Alabama. "Date and Place—Fairfield, April 26." "Victim —John Jackson, 30." "Type of Violence — Murdered." "Circumstances —Beaten almost to death by policeman Hubert Alexander for laughing loudly at a joke, when the officer had ordered a group of loiterers to 'move on.' Killed in police car on way to station. Shot four times."

15 STATES SURVEYED

The states covered by the survey are 15—and the District of Columbia. They are Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

Alabama's second victim was Dorothy Greenwood, 13, who, in the city of Montgomery on January 18, was "shot through the head by police who entered her home allegedly 'to investigate a disturbance'." The bullet pierced the child's brain. She did not die, but is doomed to imbecility for life.

Alabama's third act of violence occurred in Birmingham, in February, when James Daniels, 11 years old, got a fractured leg "by a bullet fired by policeman who ordered him and two other children from a vacant lot on which they were playing."

It would seem that the soverign state of Alabama, through its upholders of law and order, would as soon shoot a child as frame one. Remember the Scottsboro boys?

IT HAPPENED IN ALABAMA

In Birmingham, again on April 17, an unknown Negro was shot in the back by a dog catcher "because he resisted [illegible] to seize his dog." And yet again in the same center of Southern culture, Foster Powers, a Negro worker, "was attacked in full sight of 400 people." Policeman Mason "beat him with a blackjack and the butt-end of his service revolver." Powers was "further beaten in the police station." The case was dismissed "because of 'mental incapacity' of the sick victim."

Next comes Arkansas City, in the state of Arkansas, where, on April 12, John Riney, 25 was "almost lynched." Two "delegates" from a lynch-mob were permitted by Sheriff Howard Clayton to enter the jail and look for Riney, held allegedly for "assault" on a white woman. "The mob dispersed only when assured its victim was no longer there. Had been transferred to an undisclosed hiding place."

California presents three cases of violence against Negroes two in Los Angeles and one in San Francisco. The first involved six students who were "lynched in effigy on the Fremont High School Campus." That was on February 5th. The second case, in San Francisco, in April, was that of Festus Coleman, 35, who was arrested on April 11 charged with "rape' brought by two Southern army officers and a girl of 17. "One officer told Coleman," says the ILD report: "'In Alabama we know how to treat niggers'."

We have already cited evidence to prove that Alabama "knows how to treat" Negroes.

HELD FOR DEFENDING SELF

Back in Los Angeles again we have the case of Alonzo Williams, "WPA worker who was threatened, abused and finally beaten by two white project foremen," says the ILD report. It adds: "Arrested on charge of battery for defending himself against assailants."

In Florida, at the town of Quincy on May 13, A. C. Williams, 22, was "lynched twice." He was "seriously injured when lynch mob dragged him from jail where he was held on 'rape' charge. Left him for dead. When they discovered he was being taken to safety in an ambulance, mob tore him from ambulance, tied him to a tree and riddled his body with bullets."

An unknown man was "almost lynched" at Jacksonville on January 8 by mob "armed with hatchets, hammers and pinch bars." He had "protested a white worker's stealing his shovel on a project which required employees to pay for shovels."

At Jacksonville also, in January, the four "Little Scottsboro" defendants in the seven-year-old case were "barely saved from lynching following U. S. Supreme Court reversal of their conviction." However, they were immediately arrested on "new" charges!

As if to prove that Florida makes no distinctions between men and women in its own peculiar manner of demonstrating the "American Way of Life," policemen of St. Petersburg on March 15 threw Miss Alseta Hargray to the ground and beat her because she "protested" their manhandling of Andrew Jamison, her companion, for an alleged traffic violation. Incidentally, the same policemen arrested three Negro bystanders who seemed to be interested in what was going on.

SOLDIER LYNCHED

Since it would be impossible in this story to include all the ILD's 50 cases of violence against Negroes, we shall select an additional few of the most conspicuous taking Georgia next. Private Felix Hall was missing from Fort Benning from February 14 to March 28. Then someone found the decomposed body of this young soldier hanging from a tree [illegible] post where he had served. The uniform hadn't been injured.

The ILD lists eight cases of violence for Georgia; however, we shall next take Louisiana, where at Baton Rouge on April 25, a Negro woman named Flora Atkins accosted by three deputy sheriffs, answered "No, sir," instead of "No, sir," to one of their questions, was badly beaten and then thrown into jail; and where, at New Orleans in February, an unknown young Negro woman "was arrested and fined for refusing to give up her seat on a trolley car at the conductor's order." The seat had been demanded by a white woman.

On February 1st at Charleston, Miss., says the ILD, "Daughter and friend killed and minister and his wife seriously injured when a white man deliberately drove his truck into the car in which they were riding." The minister, his wife, his daughter and the girl's sweetheart were "leaving the scene of a quarrel with the white man." The minister's wife was kicked by the murderer as she lay bleeding on the ground after the smashup."

In North Carolina, at Fort Bragg, May 11, Harold Daniels, young draftee, was brutally beaten by the police. When a group of Daniel's buddies, all in uniform, gathered in protest before the police station, tear gas bombs were tossed among them. They were told that if they didn't get away quick they'd be shot down with machine guns.

IN NEW YORK

And in New York, April 13, Grant Oliver Paige, 27, was so badly beaten by policemen—who ruptured his small intestines by their kicks —that he died two days later of peritonitis. Nor can we leave out the case of the numerous "suspects" seized by police in their search for the man who killed a soldier from Fort Wadsworth, June 15. The police instituted a terrifying roundup of Negro men, continuing it for a week, in some cases [illegible] by in their squad cars while mobs beat up Negro "suspects."

That happened on New York's East Side.

The ILD lists two cases of rape by white men on Negro girls in the City of New York. Did you read of them in the afternoon papers? Not a word. Yet one of the girls — a patient at a Long Island Hospital —was only 12 years old. The other one, a young woman, lived with a companion in Harlem. A policeman forced her into a room and raped her. Nothing was said by the same papers which shrieked wildly in the Strubing-Spell case. Mrs. Strubing, of course, was white, while Spell was a Negro. . . .

That will be enough to prove that fighting fascism on the home front must be taken more seriously by all haters of fascism.

Mediation Board Acts In Federal Ship Strike

16,000 at Kearny, N. J., Shipyard, Working on 45 Ships for Government, Seek Settlement of Union Demands

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WASHINGTON, July 27.—The National Defense Mediation Board is trying to prevent a proposed strike of 16,000 employes of the Federal Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company at Kearny, N. J.

Members of the board were reported to be divided between proposals for a closed shop at the shipyard or a "maintenance of membership" clause, under which union members would remain in good standing and non-members would not be required to join.

The board referred the issue to a panel, consisting of Judge Walter P. Stacy, North Carolina's Chief Justice; Charles E. Adams, employer representative, and James B. Carey, labor representative.

The shipbuilding company has contracts to construct a total of 45 ships for the Navy and the Maritime Commission in 1941 and 1942. Destroyers and cruisers are among the ships to be built.

Jewelry Workers Vote on Union Slate Tomorrow

Members of Local 1 of the International Jewelry Workers Union will elect officers at the Hotel Diplomat tomorrow. Balloting will continue from 11 A. M. to 7:30 P. M.

Benny Sher, union delegate for the last three years, is being backed for re-election by the rank and file

Defend Ame... Adopts 'Aid U...

Leader Says Support Grow... tension of Military Servi... 'Smash Hitler'

(Special to the Da...

CHICAGO, July 27.—Implem... strong plank on aid to Great Br... Union, the Chicago Committee ... ing the Allies today pressed fo... Victory" drive in this area.

Paul Lyness, director of the committee, reported strong sentiment developing here in favor of the extension of draft service.

"While we regret that this step is necessary," he declared, "we find that the people realize fully that our national defense must be maintained and strengthened, and are willing to make the necessary sacrifices."

The Chicago organization this week called a special meeting to consider the new international developments and issued a sharply-worded 11-point program based on "the need to organize all possible forces for the destruction of Hitlerism."

The committee said in its statement that "there are no less than four major phases of the great task before us. 1. We must speed the American war effort to beat Hitler

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hand opportunity of learning about America's most progressive and reliable newspaper.

The Cleveland section of the Communist Party [illegible]

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE ARCHIVES

INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE
Civil Rights Survey
July 1 -- September 30, 1941

VIOLENT TERROR AGAINST THE NEGRO PEOPLE

U.S.A. July 1—September 30, 1941

The survey which follows covers the short period of only three months. It is based entirely on newspaper reports, from a limited number of newspapers. It is therefore safe to say that there are undoubtedly many times the number of similar incidents in states not covered by the I. L. D. Survey and reported in the newspapers not received in this office.

The International Labor Defense prepared a survey for the first sixmonths of 1941 under the same general heading which disclosed 54 instances of violent terror in 15 states and the District of Columbia. These included 4 lynchings in which one of the victims was literally lynched twice (he miraculously recovered from the first murder attack); 11 lynch murders; 6 narrowly averted lynchings in which the victims suffered all the horrors but were saved at the last moment from death; 4 shootings in which two of the victims were children 11 and 13 years of age.

In presenting this summary of what actually becomes a series of examples of the type of violent terror now being practised against the Negro people in various parts of the United States, the I. L. D. wishes to call particular attention to the fact that it does not include the vicious institutions of general discrimination and Jim Crowism, in the Army as well as in civilian life. In each of the instances listed of violent terror against Negro soldiers such sordid and un-American details as absence of bathing facilities for Negro troops and officers, separate and inferior water supply systems, etc. etc.

The International Labor Defense hopes that by calling public attention to the facts in this survey the struggle against the barbarous practises they represent will be immeasurably strengthened.

International Labor Defense
CIVIL RIGHTS SURVEY
July, August, September, 1941

OK

VIOLENT TERROR AGAINST THE NEGRO PEOPLE

U.S.A. July 1,--September 30, 1941

DATE & PLACE	TYPE of VIOLENCE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Trenton, Ga. July 12	Narrowly averted lynching	EDDIE LEE SPIVEY, 28, returned to Dodge County Jail by mob of 500--700. Did not "confess". Mob beat him but "not seriously." Just "didn't feel we could lynch him."
Atlanta, Ga. July 15	Gov. Talmadge	Engineering the ouster of Dr. Walter Cocking, Dean, College of Education, University of Georgia and Dr. Marion S. Puttman, President, State Teachers College, Gov. Talmadge says: "I hope the children of the future will be able to attend Georgia schools and be able to sit down without finding a n-----r beside them." Goads Judge J. Jackson into shouting: "Any unintelligent white man if he is white is better than the best educated n-----r on earth."
Atlanta, Ga. July	Gov. Talmadge	Gov. Talmadge sends following letter to white school teacher in California: "I am opposed to racial equality and so long as I am Governor of Georgia no such teaching will be permitted in our school system. Dr. Cocking as you know was reared in the State of Iowa where white and colored children are taught in the same class room. His condition since being in Georgia is proof of the fact that he retains the views and ideas gained by him in the State of Iowa. I am not in favor of such foreign ideas as he brought to Georgia with him being taught in our university system."
Atlanta, Ga. July 22	Gov. Talmadge	Gov. Talmadge threatens to cut off supply of state news to Atlanta Constitution and Atlanta Journal unless "they correct their attitude toward him." "The Atlanta dailies" he says "are not going to put Negroes with white children in schools."
New York City July 24	Beating Frame-up	HERBERT NEWTON, Negro vice-president WPA teachers union seriously injured at 104th Precinct Police Station after arrest on WPA picket line at Mayor LaGuardia's house. Newton suffered brain concussion, broken ribs, was held incommunicado in Bellevue Prison ward. Charged with "felonious assault."
Tampa, Fla. July 26	Negro soldiers shot	Names withheld by authorities. They were shot then arrested on street corner after white MP shouted: "N-----r, get up from there." Had objected to being addressed in insulting manner.
Sikeston, Mo. July	Peonage	Armed force used to prevent STEVE LAMPLY, white farmer of Pulaski County, Ill., from taking a Negro family to join relatives on his land. Missouri family held in peonage for debt.

(more)

DATE & PLACE	TYPE of VIOLENCE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Cordele, Ga. August 1	Lynch murder	ARTHUR JOHNSON, beaten and shot 7 times in office of police chief (May 24--incident not disclosed until August 1). Newspaper reports announced he was killed "resisting arrest." Also that he had tried to defend himself with a Coca Cola bottle. Actually picked up for $7 debt. Johnson was the father of 4 children.
New York City August 1	Frame-up	REGINALD THOMAS, 33 sentenced to 2 to 4 years on five-year-old frame-up charge of stabbing policeman.
Atlanta, Ga. August 1	Gov. Talmadge	Gov. Talmadge announces he will recommend bill in legislature ordering burning of all books in schools and libraries advocating racial co-education.
Fort Bragg, N. C. August 5	Negro soldiers Murdered Beaten Arrested	Pvt. NED TRUMAN, Negro, killed in "Colored Troops" bus returning from Fayetteville in fight started when white MPs boarded bus allegedly to quell disorder. Killed by Serg. Russell Owen (acquitted by court martial) after he shot Sgt. Hargreaves in self defense. Three other Negro soldiers wounded in same incident. Later that same night, colored soldiers nowhere near scene of shooting rounded up and jailed (at least 500). Taken in truckloads to city jail and camp barracks, forced to march and stand with hands in air constantly threatened "If you don't keep quiet, I'm gona shoot one or two of you.""We should kill all of you." As busses returned to camp MPs met Negro troops with commands: "All you guys come out with your hands over your head. I've given my men orders, the first one who makes a crooked move, shoot him." Negro sergeant clubbed into insensibility for asking why the round-up. Negro soldiers, in town at time of shooting, return to camp dripping blood.
Washington, D. C. August 7	Murder	Citizens Committee Against Police Brutality reports six Negroes wantonly killed by police in six months ending August 7. Two in one week.
Camp Upton, New York August 8	Incitement to hatred	Selectees officially told by officers before being sent to Camp Croft, S. C.: "Down there you don't shake a Negro's hand when he says good-by".
Poughkeepsie, New York August 8	Assault	Monarch Lodge of Elks outing attacked by 22 police and 15 state troopers when visitors object to manner in which they are refused service in bar where they went to purchase beer.
Fort Dix, N. J. August 11	Rape frame-up	Pvt. HINTON JOHNSON and Pvt. JOSEPH WASHINGTON held in Burlington County jail without bail on rape charges brought by white soldiers. Details resemble "Scottsboro" pattern.

(more)

DATE & PLACE	TYPE of VIOLENCE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Miami, Fla. August 11	KKK	200 Klansmen in full regalia parade near new housing project from which Negroes were barred carry slogan: "We are happy to keep Negroes from driving you from your homes."
Charlotte, N. C. August 14	Negro soldier beaten	City policeman beats Negro soldier, unidentified, on street.
Sparta, Ga. August 14	Murdered	FLAM BELL, prisoner on public works chain-gang, killed by "severe whippings." Fact disclosed in legislative investigation on August 14.
Gurdon, Ark. August 12-14	Negro soldiers mobbed and beaten	Following series of similar incidents in Little Rock and Prescott (Negro soldiers driven out of stores, Negro soldier slapped by policeman) 94th Engineers moved to encampment near Gurdon. On the road are met by 7 truckloads of sheriffs, deputies, MPs, armed with machine guns. Officers ordered to move Negro soldiers into muddy ditch: "Get those black bastards off the concrete . . . If so much as one black bastard opens his mouth I'll kill all of them . . . You damn Yanks think you can come down here and run things but you can't." White lieutenant who refused to obey, slapped by gang leader "Your tin stars don't mean anything to us down here."
Baltimore, Md. August 15	Murdered	Lawrence Reed, 16, shot down by police.
Rising Fawn, Ga. August 15	Murdered	LEWIS GORDON, Negro convict killed in sweat box into which he was jammed with 21 other prisoners for hours. The box was seven feet by seven and a half feet.
Washington, D. C. August 15	Nazism	Cong. John E. Rankin (Miss.) states that the Capitol needs 300 more police and 2 companies of marines to protect white women from Negroes. "I am in favor of continuing the only policy by which the whites and Negroes can live together peacefully in the District of Columbia and throughout the South--segregation of the two races." This poison was sent out under his congressional frank.
New York City August 18	Beating	CHARLES EDWARDS, beaten and forcibly ejected from Quaker City bus when he refused to obey drivers orders to move to back seat.
Atlanta, Ga. August 18	Gov. Talmadge	Justifies appointing Ed and Fred Goble to prison post with statement that they had helped deputy sheriff kill a Negro in Elijay when they were 15 and 16 years old. Also that they had served on chain-gang themselves. "They are good boys. If you want to get somebody who knows how to treat convicts get somebody who has et the the cake."

(more)

DATE & PLACE	TYPE of VIOLENCE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Pittsburgh, Texas August 20	Narrowly averted lynching Mutilation	Mob takes two Negro prisoners jailed for vagrancy from county jail while sheriff is "absent". The victims were castrated.
New Orleans, La. August 23	Stabbing Negro soldier	HENRY STABVERT,21, soldier, stabbed by white soldier who didn't like his attitude. Had shouted at him, "Hey, n----r, I'm talking to you."
Fort Sill, Okla. August 25	Negro soldier jailed	For refusing to carry out an order delivered in a humiliating manner (Ride that shovel harder, you g-d d--- black n----r"), unidentified soldier jailed.
Baltimore,Md. August 26	Arrest	Announcing mass meeting to protest wanton police killing of Lawrence Reed, (see page 3) three members of National Negro Congress arrested for operating sound truck for which they had a permit.
Montgomery, Alabama August 26	Murdered	OSIE FLOWERS shot down in street by policemen.
Macon. Ga. August 29	White-wash	Judge Bascom Deaver, Fed. Dist. Court, refuses to order removal of slavers William Cunningham and Hamilton McWhorter to Chicago to stand trial for peonage and conspiracy to hold Negroes in slavery.
Newburgh, N. Y. August 30	KKK	"Secret" convention in which Nazi Bund participated "unofficially" held.
St. Louis, Mo. August 30	Beaten Arrested	CURTIS BROWN, 33, arriving a scene of minor traffic accident, beaten so that he had to be twice hospitalized--once for 2 stitches in left ear, the second time for 15 in his scalp. Was then arrested and held in $500 bond for "resisting arrest and disturbing the peace" and once more beaten at police station. Had asked too many questions.
Houston, Tex. August 30	Negro soldiers threatened with arrest	Members of 25th Colored Regular Army Infantry summoned to police cars cruising streets, threatened with jail or shooting if they do not answer as police wish "Say,do you know you are talking to a white man.
Denver, Colorado August	Intimidating arrests	White citizens who shop at Negro stores threatened by police for practise. At least one who said he would continue ,arrested and jailed for "resisting an officer."
Washington, D. C. August	Murdered	EDWARD and JASPER COBB, killed by Police Officer Webber because they did not produce their registration cards quickly enough to please him. Whitewashed on shooting charge and put back on force.
New Orleans, La. August	Negro soldiers jailed	Members of the 393rd Quartermasters Regiment jailed for refusing to give up seats in trolley car.

(more)

DATE & PLACE	TYPE of VIOLENCE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Oswego, N.Y. August	Negro soldiers beaten	Members of 369th Infantry forced off sidewalks near Ft.Ontario, sick soldier treated so badly at hospital he was forced to flee, soldiers and civilians beaten at Negro restaurant whose owner is threatened with loss of life if he did not leave town.
Houston, Texas August	Negro soldiers insulted	Local police attempt to chase members of 25th and 368th regiments off the streets. Threaten to arrest all who refuse to be intimidated. Arrival of Provost Marshall who dispersed police prevents injury to soldiers.
Columbia, S. C. August	Negro soldiers beaten	White MPs repeatedly beat Negro soldiers and Negro civilians who protest.
Camp Davis, N. C. August	Negro soldier jailed	CURTIS MOSBY, 24, enlisted man, given 5 years by court martial for insubordination and breaking arrest. Possibly arrest resulted from incident at Wilmington station when Negro troops refused to crowd into back of bus.
Roxboro, N. C. August	Narrowly averted lynching	CY WINSTEAD, 22, saved from mob of 500 armed with guns, sticks and stones. 40 Negro CCC boys who assisted in his rescue not only fired on by mob, but reprimanded by governor for not attending to their own business.
Laurens, S. C. September 1	KKK	KKK petitions city council to pass ordinance prohibiting Negroes from congregating on sidewalks and ordering them off main streets by 9 P.M. every night.
Chattanooga, Tenn. September 1	Rape	22-year-old daughter of Negro Methodist minister raped by white policeman. Police officials refuse to investigate her charges. Tell her "come back tomorrow" every time she visits station.
Baltimore, Md. September 1	Forcible eviction	Mrs. DOROTHY H. HUDES and Miss LOTTIE MAJOR forcibly ejected from Grayhound Bus (Baltimore to N.Y.) when they refused to take back seats. Driver who refused to give them their coats and baggage, left them standing on highway at 2 a. m.
Winona, Miss. September 4	Murdered	JIM STEWART, white, died of bullet wounds, and JAMES IRVING, Negro, as result of beating at hands of mob from whom Stewart tried to save him.
Los Angeles, California Sept. 6	Beating and arrest	Beaten about head, kicked in stomach, clubbed, then charged with battery, reckless driving and obstructing arrest was fate of CLIFFORD A. COLWELL, 19, Bible student who disputed traffic violation charge.
Memphis, Tenn. September 7	Shot	STEVE MCQUIRK, 22, shot in police squad car. Arrested when police caught him "tinkering with an auto." Shot in back while "attempting to escape."

(more)

DATE & PLACE	TYPE of VIOLENCE	CIRCUMSTANCES
New Orleans, La. September 5	Beating	ALEXENA BOLTON, 17-year-old servant girl, kicked in stomach 4 times by police when accused of stealing watch which was subsequently found. Suffered serious internal injuries.
Tampa, Fla. September 7	Negro soldiers beaten	Two Negro soldiers, unidentified, severely beaten by white MPs in presence of a group of 7 white MPs who stood guard with drawn pistols to prevent civilians from interfering. Negro soldiers had walked out of restaurant with shirt collars unbuttoned. Hadn't closed them quickly enough to suit MPs.
New York City September 10	Imprisonment of Negro soldiers	Welfare Equity Association discloses the fact that 380 soldiers court martialled in 1918 are still in prison. Report also discloses fact that there were 16,347 court martials in 1918 alone and that 145 death sentences were meted out between April 7, 1917 and June 1919 of which 35 were carried out. Among these were 11 in Southern Texas where the victims were charged with "rape". Judge Advocate General Ansell in reviewing papers in this case was convinced the men were innocent and ordered a new trial only to find that the men were already dead. He succeeded in preventing a similar slaughter of 20 in New Jersey where officers recommended: "Make an example of them whether they are guilty or not. Hang 5 if you let the rest go."
San Francisco, California September 11	Arrest	CARL ALLSTON, Negro messman attached to U. S. Army Transport arrested for "disturbing the peace" for tipping his hat to white woman. He had once worked for her. She began to scream, ran for policeman who followed Allston and arrested him.
San Francisco, California September 13	Arrests	Four citizens, three Negro and one white arrested and held in $1,000 vagrancy charges for eating together at New Yorker Restaurant. Held in jail over night until bond produced. JOHN HUNTER, ASHBY LONG andMISS MIRIAM BARNETT (Negroes) and ARTHUR REED (white)had stopped in for a sandwich late Saturday night.
Long Beach, California September 15	Intimidation	5 Negro boys trailed by police patrol car after leaving Byrne Forum. Stopped and told: "Don't you know it was social equality for you to be there. We can't have that in Long Beach." Threatened with loss of their jobs if they didn't disclose names of persons who invited them to Forum.
Dallas, Texas September 15	Shot	L. C. AKINS, 26, shot in right side by police. Now held for murder. Akins was forcibly held back from boarding street car in front of a white woman passenger. After officer shot him, he managed to sieze gun in scuffle which followed and fire at policemann.

(more)

DATE & PLACE	TYPE of VIOLENCE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Fairfax City.Va. September 25	Vigilantism	Organization calling itself "White Wands" organized and drilled with pick axe handles to keep refugees from Washington moving "in the event of a bombing or race riot at the capital."
New York City September 26	KKK	KKK announces drive for $1,000,000 fund to fight Catholics. Says it already has $100,000 from undisclosed source.
South Carolina September	Nazism	South Carolina judge proposes revision of state Constitution to prohibit Negroes from voting as a means of perpetrating "white supremacy."
Baltimore, Md. September	Nazism	American Red Cross Medical Service refuses to accept the blood of Miss WANDA DOUGLASS who volunteered to contribute her blood for national defense blood banks. Told authorities do not wish to "mix the blood of Negroes and whites" in dofeference to "psychological barriers",

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uopwa#16

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

NEGRO ATTACKER IS ELECTROCUTED

(From Yesterday's Final Edition)

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 17—(Friday)—(AP)—William Clark, 18-year-old convicted Negro rapist, died in the Kilby Prison electric chair early Friday.

JAN 18 1941

Clark was convicted of the 1938 rape of a Limestone County matron, and members of the jury joined with county officers in opposing clemency. Gov. Dixon refused to intervene, after the U. S. Supreme Court denied Clark a review.

The Negro was pronounced dead at 12:14 a.m. after two shocks.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

DEATH IS METED IN ATTACK CASE

16-Year-Old Negro Is Sentenced To Chair By Circuit Jury

FEB 27 1941

Punishment was fixed at death in the electric chair for Everette Washington, 16-year-old Negro, Wednesday afternoon by a jury in Circuit Judge John C. Morrow's court after he had been convicted on a charge of criminally attacking a 12-year-old white girl.

Judge Morrow said he would formally pass sentence Saturday.

The verdict was returned after the jury had deliberated approximately two hours. Solicitor George Lewis Bailes had demanded the death penalty for the Negro. Shortly after starting deliberations, the jury made inquiry as to the defendant's age and a birth certificate was sent to the jury room.

Solicitor Bailes used only two witnesses, the youthful victim of the attack, which occurred Nov. 22 near her home near Pratt City, and Deputy Sheriff A. J. Dunn, who, along with Deputy J. L. Boggan arrested the Negro. Dunn testified the Negro made a statement in which he admitted the attack.

The girl reportedly was assaulted while she and her 5-year-old brother were out looking for a cow which had strayed. Deputy Dunn asserted that a pocket knife which the Negro dropped near the scene led to his subsequent arrest at his home, 822 Lafayette Avenue, Pratt City.

FEB 27 1941

No testimony was offered by the defense. Arthur Shores, Negro attorney for the defendant, pleaded for leniency, in view of the boy's age, during his brief argument before the jury.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Negro Found Guilty Of Criminal Attack Is Sentenced To Chair

FEB 27 1941

Plea Of Defendant's Youth Of No Avail; Victim Was Only 12

Finding the defendant guilty of criminally attacking a 12-year-old girl last Nov. 22, a jury in Circuit Judge John C. Morrow's court late Wednesday afternoon fixed death in the electric chair as punishment for Everette Washington, 16-year-old Pratt City Negro.

Sentence formally will be passed Saturday, Judge Morrow said.

Solicitor George Lewis Bailes had demanded the death penalty for the Negro, and the verdict was returned approximately two hours after the jury began consideration of the case.

FEB 27 1941

The jury, shortly after starting deliberations, had made inquiry as to the defendant's age and, with Solicitor Bailes agreeing, a birth certificate was sent to the jury room. In his brief argument before the jury, Arthur Shores, Negro attorney, had pleaded for leniency in view of the defendant's age. No testimony was offered by the defense.

Only two witnesses were placed on the stand by Solicitor Bailes. They were the young victim, and Deputy Sheriff A. J. Dunn, who, along with Deputy J. L. Boggan, arrested the Negro at his home, 822 Lafayette Avenue, Pratt City.

The girl was reportedly attacked near her home near Pratt City while she and her 5-year-old brother were searching for a cow which had strayed. The Negro, officers said, offered to help the children look for the cow.

Deputy Dunn said a knife which the Negro dropped in flight from the scene led to his arrest. Dunn said the Negro, when arrested, admitted the attack.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

YOUTH, 16, GETS CHAIR AFTER 2½-HOUR-TRIAL

MAR 5 1941

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(ANP)—Death in the electric chair was the penalty meted out to Everette Washington, 16, for an alleged attack on a 12-year-old white girl (last November 22) after thirty-five minutes of testimony, and two hours of deliberation by the jury.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okl.

Alabama Youth Given Death Sentence For Alleged Criminal Attack

MAR 22 1941

BIRMINGHAM. — Following his conviction of a charge of criminally attacking a 12-year-old white girl in the woods near Pratt City last November 22, Everette Washington, 16, faces death in the electric chair.

After one of the speediest trials on record here, 35 minutes after the state had begun presenting its testimony, the case was in the jurors' hands. Following a two hour deliberation, they returned their verdict fixing the boys' punishment at death.

MAR 22 1941

The jury heard only two witnesses for the state, none for the defense. The young victim of the assault took the witness stand to identify Washington as her attacker. She said the boy, whom she had encountered while out with her 5 year old brother looking for a stray cow, held a knife on her and threatened to take her life unless she submitted to his demands.

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

SCOTTSBORO BOYS IN PRISON DECADE; FREEDOM IS SOUGHT

Ask Letters To Be Forwarded To Alabama Appealing For Release Of Six

MAR 21 1941

MONTGOMERY, Ala., March 19.—(Special)— March 25, 1941, which will mark the 10th anniversary of the world famous Scottsboro Case, should be observed throughout the United States with appropriate action in behalf of the five innocent victims of that frame-up who are still in prison, the International Labor Defense said last week in a statement calling for thousands of messages of greetings to the boys themselves and letters to Gov. Frank Dixon, urging their release. The statement said:

MAR 21 1941

In the years that have passed their innocence of the crime with which they were charged has been completely proven. Not only did one of the white women herself take the witness stand in their behalf, but four of them were freed by the state of Alabama which admitted there was no evidence against them. Yet at that same trial in July, 1937, the remaining boys received heavy sentences—one of them, Clarence Norris, the death penalty for the third time—on the basis of THAT SAME EVIDENCE.

MAR 21 1941

"Thousands of messages of greeting and solidarity telling them they are not forgotten should reach the boys on March 25, 1941 (Haywood Patterson and Ozie Powell, Atmore Prison, Atmore, Ala.; Clarence Norris, Charlie Weems, Andy Wright, Kilby Prison, Montgomery, Ala.) and copies of these should be sent to Gov. Frank Dixon, reminding him that justice requires the unconditional release of these boys, even though ten years too late."

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Hearing Continued On Negro's Appeal

MAR 8 1941

Hearing which was opened Saturday before Judge John C. Morrow on a motion to obtain a new trial for Everette Washington, 16-year-old Negro, who has been convicted of the criminal attack of a 12-year-old white girl and punishment fixed by the jury at death in the electric chair, will be resumed March 7, at 9 a.m.

The motion is based on an allegation that the jury which tried Washington was not sworn before trial was started, as is customary in capital cases.

Solicitor George Lewis Bailes, who prosecuted the case, represents the state at hearing of the motion. At Saturday's session, nine of the trial jury were questioned as to whether they had been sworn and most replied they had no definite recollection.

MAR 8 1941

Crampton Harris, Birmingham attorney, was called into the case on behalf of the defendant after the new trial motion was filed by Arthur D. Shores, Negro attorney, who represented Washington at his trial.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

Sentencing Negro Boy To Chair Is Deferred

MAR 2 1941

Formal sentencing of Everette Washington, 16-year-old Pratt City Negro, to death in the electric chair was deferred one week Saturday by Circuit Judge John C. Morrow after the boy's attorney had filed a new trial motion.

MAR 2 1941

Washington was convicted Wednesday on a charge of criminally attacking a 12-year-old girl last November near her home near Pratt City and the jury fixed the death penalty.

Arthur Shores, Negro attorney for the defendant, contended in his new trial motion Saturday that the jury which tried Washington was not legally constituted because it had not been sworn before the trial.

Hearing on the motion was set for Saturday, March 8. Shores offered no testimony on behalf of the defendant and pleaded that he be given a life sentence because of his age.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Aid For Scottsboro Boys On 10th Year Of Arrest

MAR 29 1941

A renewed effort to free the five Scottsboro boys in prison was urged this week by the International Labor Defense on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the celebrated case.

"It was on March 25, 1931," the I. L. D. statement reminds the nation, "that nine Negro children were taken from a freight train by a sheriff-led mob, rushed to jail, charged with attacking two white women, and in an atmosphere of lynch hysteria that was so intense the governor ordered out troops to protect their lives, sentenced to die in the electric chair. In the years that have passed their innocence of the crime with which they were charged has been completely proven. Not only did one of the white women herself take the witness stand in their behalf, but four of them were freed from the state of Alabama which admitted there was no evidence against them. Yet at the same trial in July, 1937, the remaining boys received heavy sentences—one of them, Clarence Norris, the death penalty for the third time—on the basis of that same evidence."

The statement stresses the many benefits derived from the historic fight for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys, and points out that "Countless lives have been saved through what has become known as Scottsboro decisions alone — decisions in which the U. S. Supreme Court has reversed lynch penalties on the grounds that Negroes had been systematically excluded from the juries involved in violation of the Constitution of the United States." MAR 29 1941

"Yet Haywood Patterson, Clarence Norris, Charlie Weems, Andy Wright and Ozie Powell are still rotting in Alabama jails. In the ten years that have passed they have grown to manhood — in the shadow of the electric chair until three years ago—and with the threat of life-long imprisonment hanging over them today."

I. L. D. Asked By

The I. L. D. which was the first organization to go to the aid of the frame-up victims urged all friends of justice to write to Gov. Frank Dixon, Montgomery, Ala.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Innocent Man Freed After Eleven Years

False Evidence, Rape Charge, Is Found By State

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Seeking revenge, following a quarrel with his colored employee, a white man here chose an effective method—even SEP 8 1941 the extent of causing an innocent man to be condemned to death for a crime he did not commit.

This is what the parole and pardon board of the state of Alabama found out following an investigation of a rape charge against a young colored farm hand after he had served eleven years of a life imprisonment sentence.

FALSE EVIDENCE

When the truth was established that the man had been convicted on the falsified evidence of his employer, the board called it a "miscarriage of justice" and granted the victim, now 37, SEP 6 1941

Andrew Sanders and his employer had a violent quarrel on the man's farm back in 1930. Later, Sanders was arrested on the charge of raping a feeble-minded white girl, 14, at Brent, Ala.

At the trial, Sanders' employer was the chief witness against him. The evidence presented against the accused was convincing. SEP 8 1941 Sanders knew nothing about what was supposed to have happened, and was not aware that the man for whom he worked had planned to "get even" with him because of the quarrel some time ago. he had no defense.

CONDEMNED TO DIE

It took only a brief time for the jury to bring in a verdict of guilty, which automatically carried with it the death penalty by electrocution for a Negro rapist in the state of Alabama.

However, for some unpublished reason, fate stepped in and took a hand. Just before the date of the scheduled execution, Sanders was notified that his sentence had been commuted to life imprisonment.

That same "fate" continued to work in behalf of the condemned man. But it was not until after the employer was dead that the truth was revealed and Alabama "justice" found that it had taken a toll of eleven years from the life of an innocent man.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

ACCUSATION BY ALA. WOMAN IS CALLED FLIMSY

DEC 27 1941

Youths Ask Investigation And Aid From N.A.A.C.P.

MOBILE, Ala.—"They beat me and made me confess to something I did not do. Please do not let me die for a crime I know nothing about."

Such was the pathetic appeal of Curtis Robinson, 20-year-old youth, voiced in letters to the Mobile National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and also to the national office of the organization. Robinson and Henry Daniels, Jr., 18, have been sentenced to death in an alleged rape case involving a white woman.

The woman is supposed to have been attacked in an alley. Occupants of a house in the alley state that they heard no outcry.

Previous to the arrest of Robinson and Daniels the woman had "identified" two other youths, but they were able to prove by numerous witnesses as to their whereabouts at the hour the alleged attack was said to have taken place.

"The N.A.A.C.P. has made an investigation of the case and does not believe that the boys are guilty, so we shall very definitely do our utmost to save their lives," was the assurance given by J. L. LeFlore, chairman of the Southern N.A.A.C.P. and secretary of the Mobile branch.

Legal Punishment for rape

37h-1941

ALABAMA

6697

Ten Years After

APR 5 - 1941

Five Scottsboro Boys Yet In Jail

SAVANNAH JOURNAL

SAVANNAH, GA.

NEW YORK — (ANP)—The International Labor Defense in a s called attention to the fact that although on March 25, ten years shall have passed since the Scottsboro boys were first arrested five of the nine men involved still remain in Alabama prisons.

Reviewing the world famous case whose tenth anniversary came Tuesday, the ILD stated: "It was on March 25, 1931, that nine Negro children were taken from a fr[illegible] tr[illegible] trani by a sheriff-led mob, rushed to jail, charged withh attacking two white women, and in an atmosphere of lynch hysteria that was so intense the governor ordered out troops to protect their lives, sentenced to die in the electric chair.

APR 5 - 1941

"In the years that have passed their innocence of the crime with which they were charged has been completely proven. Not only did one of the white women herself take the witness stand in their behalf, but four of them were freed by the state of Albaama which admitted there was no evidence against them. Yet at that same trial in July, 1937, the remaining boys received sentences—one of them, Clarence Norris, the death penalty for the third time—on the basis of that same evidence.

APR 5 - 1941

"The innocence of the Scottsboro boys is an accepted fact. Large sections of the population of the South have joined with Negro and white fellow Americans throughout the land in the demand for justice in the Scottsboro case whose historic repercussions are daily making themselves felt in every section of the country. Countless lives have been saved through what has become known as Scottsboro decisions alone—decisions in which the United States supreme court has reversed lynch penalties on the grounds that Negroes had been systematically excluded from the juries involved in violation of the constitution of the United States.

APR 5 - 1941

Yet, as the ILD points out, Haywood Patterson, Clarence Norris, Charlie Weems, Andy Wright and Ozie Powell still remain in Alabama jails. "In the years that have passed they have grown to manhood—in the shadow of the electric chair until three years ago—and wtih the threat of life imprisonment hanging over them today.

News

Birmingham, Ala.

Negro Given Death In Attack On Girl

MAY 23 1941

Everett Washington, Negro student of Pratt City, was sentenced by Circuit Judge C. Morrow to die in the electric chair July 11 for attacking a 12-year-old white girl several months ago, but the sentence was suspended when notice for an appeal was entered.

Before sentencing Washington, Judge Morrow overruled a motion for a new trial on grounds that the jury which convicted him, about two months ago, had not been administered the oath when tried.

Two weeks ago, Judge Morrow heard testimony barring against the motion in which several witnesses differed as to whether the jury had been sworn in. The majority of the witnesses, however, testified the oath had been administered.

Jurors are sworn in as a body when they are excepted for general jury duty but the law requires that in murder trials, jurors must be sworn in a second time when the trial opens. The defendant claimed the jurors did not receive the latter oath.

Washington was charged with having attacked the girl near Pratt City about four months ago after threatening to kill her with a knife. His trial in April was one of the speediest here in recent months. The prisoner was represented by a Negro attorney who offered no defense evidence. On the motion for a new trial, however, Crampton Harris appeared as his lawyer.

Advertiser

ontgomery, Ala.

Second Ashland Slayer Convicted

NOV 8 1941

ASHLAND, Nov. 18.—(AP)—Albert Craig, 21, negro, today was convicted of first-degree murder by a Clay County circuit jury and sentenced to die in the electric chair for the attack-slaying of Miss Mary Webster Garrison, 45.

A similar sentence was imposed on Doc Powell, the other negro defendant in the case, yesterday after the jury deliberated eight minutes. The jury today returned its verdict within 13 minutes.

NOV 19 1941

The condemned men were taken to Kilby Prison, Montgomery, after Judge W. W. Wallace, of Columbia, set the execution date for January 2.

Miss Garrison, semi-invalid daughter of former Judge E. J. Garrison, was found stabbed and beaten to death and criminally assaulted in the kitchen of her home here Oct. 14.

1941 37h Ala.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

NEGRO SLAYER EXECUTED

Dies For Attack On 16-Year-Old Girl Near Augusta, Ark.

TUCKER PRISON FARM, Ark., Jan. 24.—(AP)—The state executed John Mooney, 27-year-old negro, here Friday for the July 21 attack-slaying of Ruby Montgomery, 16, of near Augusta.

Prison Supt. Tom Cogbill said the negro, who pleaded innocent when he was tried in Woodruff Circuit Court, confessed his guilt in a verbal statement before he died in the electric chair at 7:13 a.m.

JAN 25 1941

Miss Montgomery was attacked and fatally bludgeoned in a field 20 miles from Augusta by a man who first knocked unconscious a 14-year-old neighbor boy with whom she was walking home from a church service at night.

Mooney was captured several days later at a lonely shack on the Mississippi River levee near Brickeys by possemen who shot and wounded him when he attempted to break through the posse cordon.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

Negro Is Sentenced To Death At Elaborately Guarded Trial

By The Asso

ARKANSAS CITY, Ark., May 15.—The most elaborate guard ever provided for an accused person in Arkansas stood on duty at Desha County courthouse Thursday as John Henry Riley, 25, negro, was tried and sentenced to death for criminally assaulting a young white matron last April 3.

MAY 16 1941

Approximately 400 soldiers, members of the 140th Infantry Regiment of Missouri in training at Camp Robinson, camped overnight in Courthouse Square and surrounded the building during the court hearing.

Plane Circles Area

Throughout the proceeding, Maj. Gen. George V. Strong, commander of the Eighth Army Corps, circled over this little town of 1500 population in a bimotored transport plane. He exchanged greetings by radio with Presiding Judge T. G. Parham shortly before the trial started, and afterwards maintained contact with the ground troops on the square.

After Riley pleaded guilty, a jury selected to hear the evidence decided he should die. Court-appointed defense counsel promptly waived statutory delays and Judge Parham set the execution date for June 20.

The 250 spectators who gained admittance to the trial were then ordered to remain in their seats until Riney had been taken from the courtroom, placed in a state police automobile and started out of town with his military escort, consisting of 50 cars and armored trucks. Machine guns which had been mounted in the square were quickly dismantled, their crews joining the outbound procession.

Returned To Little Rock

The convoy, accompanied by General Strong's plane, left here for the death house at Tucker Penal Farm, but subsequently this plan was changed and Riney was returned to the county jail at Little Rock, where he had been held for safe keeping since his arrest last month.

The trial jury was selected in 43 minutes, and it deliberated for four minutes in bringing in the death verdict.

The victim, attended by a physician, took the stand to point out Riney as her assailant.

Riney, who also took the stand, told the jury: "I was drunk on wine, just like I was crazy."

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala

Arkansas Attacker Sentenced To Chair

ARKANSAS CITY, ARK., May 15.—(AP)—Concluding a trial guarded by several hundred troops, a Desha Circuit Court jury decided after four minutes of deliberation today that 25-year-old John Henry Riney, negro, should die in the electric chair for the April 3 criminal attack on a young white matron of nearby McGehee.

Riney pleaded guilty to the State's charge that he entered the woman's home, seized her in a bathroom and dragged her to an outbuilding and assaulted her after stabbing her in the side with a knife and placing a wire tightly around her throat.

The complaining witness, supported by a physician, took the stand to identify Riney as her assailant. The negro, called as a witness by court-appointed attorneys, made a one-sentence plea for clemency, saying: "I was drunk on wine, just like I was crazy."

Counsel waived statutory delays to permit Presiding Judge T. G. Parham to pronounce sentence immediately after the jury reported. The execution date was set for June 20.

On orders of the court, 250 spectators who gained admittance to the trial on military passes, remained in their seats as Riney was taken out into the courthouse square, placed in a State police automobile, surrounded by his 400-soldier convoy and started for the death house at Tucker penal farm, 60 miles away.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn

SOLDIERS ESCORT MAN CHARGED WITH RAPE TO HIS TRIAL

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., May 21 (ANP)—A special escort of approximately 400 soldiers from nearby Camp Robinson was provided for John Henry Riney as he was taken from the jail here Wednesday to McGehee county in southeastern Arkansas to face trial for the alleged rape of a white woman in April.

The troops were sent at the request of Gov. Adkins who wired President Roosevelt asking the protection of federal soldiers in the absence of the Arkansas National guard, now fully mustered into federal service.

MAY 30 1941

The soldiers who appeared at the jail shortly before noon in armed trucks, on which machine guns were mounted to flank the automobile in which the prisoner was placed for the 140-mile trip to Arkansas City, were accompanied by nearly a score of state police. At the edge of the city a convoy of more than 50 automobiles and army trucks formed for the journey.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

MAN GETS DEATH AT GUARDED HEARING

ARKANSAS CITY, Ark., May 29—(ANP) — Approximately 400 soldiers, members of the 140th Infantry regiment of Missouri in training at Camp Robinson, stood guard Thursday during the trial of John Henry Riney, 25, who was sentenced to death for criminal assault on a white woman April 3.

The soldiers camped over night in the courthouse square and surrounded the building during the court hearing. During the trial Maj. Gen. George V. Strong, commander of the Eighth Army corps, circled over the town in a transport plane. He exchanged greetings by radio with the presiding judge just before the trial started, and afterward maintained contact with the ground troops on the square.

After the jury had returned the death verdict, the 250 spectators who gained admittance to the trial were ordered to remain in their seats until Riney had been taken from the courtroom, placed in a state police automobile and started out of town with his military escort, consisting of 50 cars and armored trucks.

Bystander
Des Moines, Iowa

Justice Under Pressure

Most daily papers with wire photo service carried a remarkable picture Saturday of a Negro prisoner in Arkansas being marched through a line of United States soldiers to court where he confessed, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to die for th alleged raping of a white woman. The governor secured permision from the war department to use the federal troops because the states national guardsmen were in training out of the state.

MAY 22 1941

The Bystander congratulates the governor for at least making it possible to go through the motion of giving this man a trial. Some governors have not carried out their obligations to that extent.

But the question the Bystander raises is what now much of a fair trial could a defendant get under such pressure? No jury, no court, no prosecuting attorney is free to administer justice under such conditions. No defendant dares do other than the desire of the mob. Under such circumstances. And if it is necessary to bring a prisoner to court under such pressure there just is no such thing as a fair trial.

Several years ago the United States Supreme Court said in the Lee Frank case, which came up in Georgia—Frank was a Jew charged with raping a white girl—that as long as the lower court went through the motion of giving the defendant a trial, it had no right to go back of the preceedings to inquire whether those proceedings were dominated by mob violence. However, since that time, the court has revised this ruling and in the Scottsboro cases, held that a trial dominated by mob violence did not comply with the due process clause of our Constitution and remanded the cases back to Alabama for new trals.

Just what will happen in the instant case we don not know but the circumstances under which this man was tried certainly falls within the catagory of the court's last ruling.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

SENTENCE OF SEDUCER IS PROTESTED

Noted White Attorney Wrongs Girl; Is Shown Great Leniency

LOS ANGELES.—A storm of protest is expected here as the result of the sentence meted out Thursday to 59-year-old George Watson, white seducer of a colored girl, 15.

In an unexpected action Thursday, Judge Clement D. Nye, of department 40 of the Superior court, sentenced Watson to one year in jail with six months' suspended and granted him three years probation after the probation department had refused to recommend such leniency.

Watson was arrested several months ago when the girl was discovered by her father to be pregnant. Watson, a prominent white attorney of high social connections confessed to having seduced the young girl on several occasions during visits made to his office by her on legal business for her father.

After his arrest Watson pled guilty and war arraigned on four counts of rape. In his startling action Thursday, Judge Nye dismissed three of the four counts. Sentence for the crime in this state is one to 15 years, depending upon the circumstances. Such an offense by an adult against a minor is usually severely punished.

Many youths of both races are presently incarcerated for such offenses, but few are fortunate enough to draw less than three years as punishment for indiscretions in boy-girl love affairs.

Following Watson's plea of guilty he was disbarred by the state bar association.

Asked why he ignored the probation department's failure to recommend probation for the elderly [illegible] Judge Nye said he had received no protests from private citizens opposing such action on his part. He had no comment to make when it was pointed out that the public seldom knows when such recommendations are made by the probation department.

The child of the white lawyer and the young colored girl will be born this month. Judge Nye ruled that Watson must support the baby.

While not authenticated, it is rumored that Watson's wife, who has stood by him so far, is contemplating divorce action.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

White Lawyer Gets Jail Sentence in Rape Case

LOS ANGELES. — (ANP). — George Watson, white attorney, who pleaded guilty of the statutory rape of 15-year-old Doris Haney, daughter of one of his clients, was sentenced to serve a year in jail and put on probation for three years by Superior Judge Clement D. Nye this week. Six months of the jail sentence were suspended.

The girl, who is the daughter of Walter L. Haney, went to the lawyer's office on errands for her father who had retained Watson to represent him in the probate of an estate. Watson was originally charged with four counts of statutory rape, but entered a plea of guilty to one count and secured dismissal of the remaining counts.

The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

The Fight To Free Festus Coleman Brings "Scottsboro" To San Francisco, California!

OCT 2 1941

San Francisco, Calif. — Because Festus Lewis Coleman "would rather spend ten thousand years in jail than plead guilty to something I did not do," this 31-year-old Negro worker, and father of two children, has been condemned to San Quentin prison for 65 years for a crime he did not commit.

The story of Festus Coleman is the story of "Scottsboro" retold. Only the locale and the characters have changed. Here's what the Coleman Defense Committee says about it in a pamphlet which is being mailed to every part of the country:

OCT 2 1941

"The charges (against Coleman) are 'robbery and rape'. The principal witnesses against him are an army lieutenant and a seventeen-year-old girl, who were together on a blanket in Golden Gate Park when Coleman unluckily stumbled upon them.

"Coleman was tried before a judge notorious for his race bias. Coleman was represented by a lawyer who apparently made no effort to defend him. He had once been suspended for 'unethical practice'. All attempts to contact him after the trial failed. Not until after it was known the International Labor Defense was interested in the case did he file briefs for appeal. The trial itself was conducted in secret. It lasted a day and a half. The jury was selected in forty-five minutes. No member of Coleman's race was represented.

"AFTER THE VERDICT WAS REACHED, THE JUDGE OFFERED TO DROP THE RAPE CHARGE IF COLEMAN WOULD NOT APPEAL THE CASE. COLEMAN REPLIED, "I WOULD RATHER SPEND TEN THOUSAND YEARS IN JAIL THAN PLEAD GUILTY TO SOMETHING I DID NOT DO".

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

File Appeal In Negro 'Rape' Case on Coast

NOV 22 1941

All-White Jury Convicts Festus Coleman; Bias Charged by Defense

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 21. — Briefs for appeal against the conviction of Festus Coleman, young San Francisco Negro worker, who is serving a 65-year sentence in San Quentin since an all-white jury found him guilty on charges of "rape and robbery," have been filed in Superior Court by the International Labor Defense.

The appeal brief, filed by Atty. George R. Anderson, contends:

1) That the trial court (Judge George J. Steiger) committed misconduct prejudical to the rights of the defendant.

2) That the prosecution (Assistant District Attorney Harmon D. Skillin) committed misconduct prejudical to the rights of the defendant.

3) That the evidence submitted was insufficient to sustain a conviction.

During the trial in question Judge Steiger repeatedly took questioning out of the hands of Defense Attorney Donald Young. His manner of questioning Coleman was such as to give the jury the impression that he, the judge, already had made up his mind that the young Negro was guilty.

PREJUDICAL QUIZ

While Coleman was describing how he had cut through Golden Gate Park on returning from a walk at the beach, Judge Steiger cut in and demanded to know what he was doing "sneaking around" in the dark.

NOV 22 1941

Chief prosecution witness was an Army Air Corps officer. He said that on the night of April 11 Coleman came upon him and a young Coalinga High School girl while they were resting upon a blanket. He said Coleman robbed him of $8 and at the point of a pistol, committed rape upon the girl. For 10 minutes he made no effort to resist and during this time another officer and a girl were in a car a few [illegible]

NOV 22 1941

Coleman himself was the sole defense witness. The trial purportedly because of the nature of the testimony was closed to the public and not even Coleman's closest relatives — his sister and his wife — were allowed in the courtroom. It lasted less than a day and a half.

The Coleman Defense Coordinating Committee of 83 McAllister Street, San Francisco, urged that all friends rush funds immediately to that office. A considerable sum is necessary to defray the expenses of handling the brief, and the need is urgent.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

ACCUSED OF BETRAYAL IN ATTACK CASE

DEC 6 1941

Calif. Attorney Is Found Guilty Of Malpractice, Gross Negligence

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal. — Donald C. Young, the attorney whose inadequate defense helped to send Festus Coleman, a young San Francisco Negro to prison for 65 years on charges of "rape and robbery," was disbarred for life from the practice of law in California.

The state supreme court ruled his disbarment on the recommendation of the state bar as a result of more than a dozen complaints made over a period of years. Three charges brought him public reproval; three caused him to be suspended for one year.

The state bar characterized Young as "inattentive to the affairs of his client" and guilty of "retention of moneys for which full value in services was not rendered." The final charges involved a bribe and the state bar found Young guilty of "acts involving moral turpitude and dishonesty" as defined in the business and professional code of California.

DEC 6 1941

Festus Coleman was one of the victims of Young's "inattention" although he brought no charges. During the course of the trial, Young made no objection to an all-white jury.

He did not question the officer and girl's veracity in stating that they had retired into the bushes with a blanket "to talk." He did not find it odd that none of the prosecution could remember the name of two hospitals where the girl was examined for evidence of rape or that no medical testimony was offered.

DEC 6 19

Young assured the judge that his defense would be "very short." He summoned no witnesses for the defendant. When Coleman's family decide to change counsel, Young disappeared and court action was taken to replace him. Even after the recommendation for his disbarment, Young tried to intimidate Festus Coleman into signing papers to retain him.

Brief for an appeal has been filed by George Anderson, of the firm of Anderson and Resner, and a ruling is expected about the middle of December. The Coleman Defense committee is located at 83 McAllister street, San Francisco.

6700

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Nothing New in Spell Case

FEB 15 1941

Coles Resents Moralizing; Calls Sex More Sensible Than People

By L. F. COLES

I have just read the AFRO editorial on Spell's trial and it seemed to me that the editor fell backwards to try to be fair. He did just what the Hearst papers would have done—namely, proceeded to lecture Spell.

I resent that, for in the first place, the AFRO-AMERICAN is constantly talking about rights for colored people, therefore, if one has his rights as a citizen, it can't be shut off when it comes to sex.

Sex Democratic

We are the last people to be hypocritical about that, because if all people, according to some fool notion, had stayed in their own racial groups, the editor of the AFRO-AMERICAN and the writer of this letter would be about seventeen times blacker than they are, and their noses would be about ten times flatter.

Consequently, the so-called superior race, which you seem to uphold, has been getting out of line sexually. As a matter of fact all people have done that from time immemorial. Sex has more sense than people, because it is democratic and is controlled by nature and nature is consistent.

To show its consistency, the Mississippi drowns a mule, a cow, a white man and a colored man alike.

FEB 15 1941

It doesn't seem to me that the last paragraph is advising Spell in the editorial in question, is analogous. I quote: "Spell says he's quitting Connecticut to go back to his home in Louisiana. We hope he does, and without preaching a sermon we recommend that he get down the family Bible and read in Genesis the story of Joseph and Potiphar's wife."

"Grace" Lacking

To quote another passage of the Bible: I recall that Paul, who was the most scholarly person in the Bible, said on one occasion that there was a thorn in his flesh, and that thorn prevented him from doing right when he desired to do so.

When he asked the Lord to remove the thorn from the flesh, it is claimed that the Lord told him that his grace was sufficient. Probably Spell's grace was not sufficient.

"I don't take any stock in what the editor said nor in what was said by the defendant's attorney, Mr. Friedman when he said that Spell's mentality was lower than that of Mrs. Strubing.

That's the same old story that has gone on in America for about seventy years, that colored people have a mentality, even when they are grown up, of a child about 2 years old.

Yet, those same people and the editor of the AFRO-AMERICA are now yelping about Hitler making the same statement about Jews, which shows that both colored and white people, and especially colored editors, have some sort of fool notion that colored people are just different from other people.

Thinks Both Lied

I don't believe Mrs. Strubing nor Spell told all. I think both of them lied. She lied to try to have him convicted and he lied to try to save society, as if it were worth saving.

History shows that mankind is depraved, mean, contemptible and hellish. That's its record. Once in a while you find a good Jew, a good colored man and a good white man, whatever that term means.

FEB 15 1941

In other words, people are good or bad according to conditions. If they have good opportunities, they'll be all right. If they don't, they'll be all wrong. Anyone knows that Lafayette, La., did not afford opportunities conducive to making a man out of Spell. The editor of the AFRO-AMERICAN should know that.

Ralph Matthews, for whom I have the highest regard, seemed to think that the NAACP should not have intervened in the case at all. In other words, I suppose he would have left him to be lynched. A man has a right to a fair trial even if he has raped a society woman.

No Reason for Tears

I see no reason for shedding tears about the whole affair, for it has been going on in America for generations. During slavery days the white masters had colored women for their mistresses and once in a while the white women had the colored men for their "mistresses," so in the language of the street, I would say "so what."

I'm not in favor of people raping anybody, but I happen to have been in the American navy and I noticed that when we were in Haiti, Africa, and the West Indies, our superior officers, who were white, went with the dark-skinned girls just as anyone else did, but they objected to colored men doing that.

When they were in France, England, and other places where the women were all white, or supposed to have been white, no one has ever been able to control sex between two people.

Despite all the white press, the AFRO-AMERICAN and other colored persons who support bastardy for colored people and who weep about saving society women when they're white, that is going to continue to be so.

New Masses
New York, N. Y.

The Spell Acquittal

FEB 11 1941

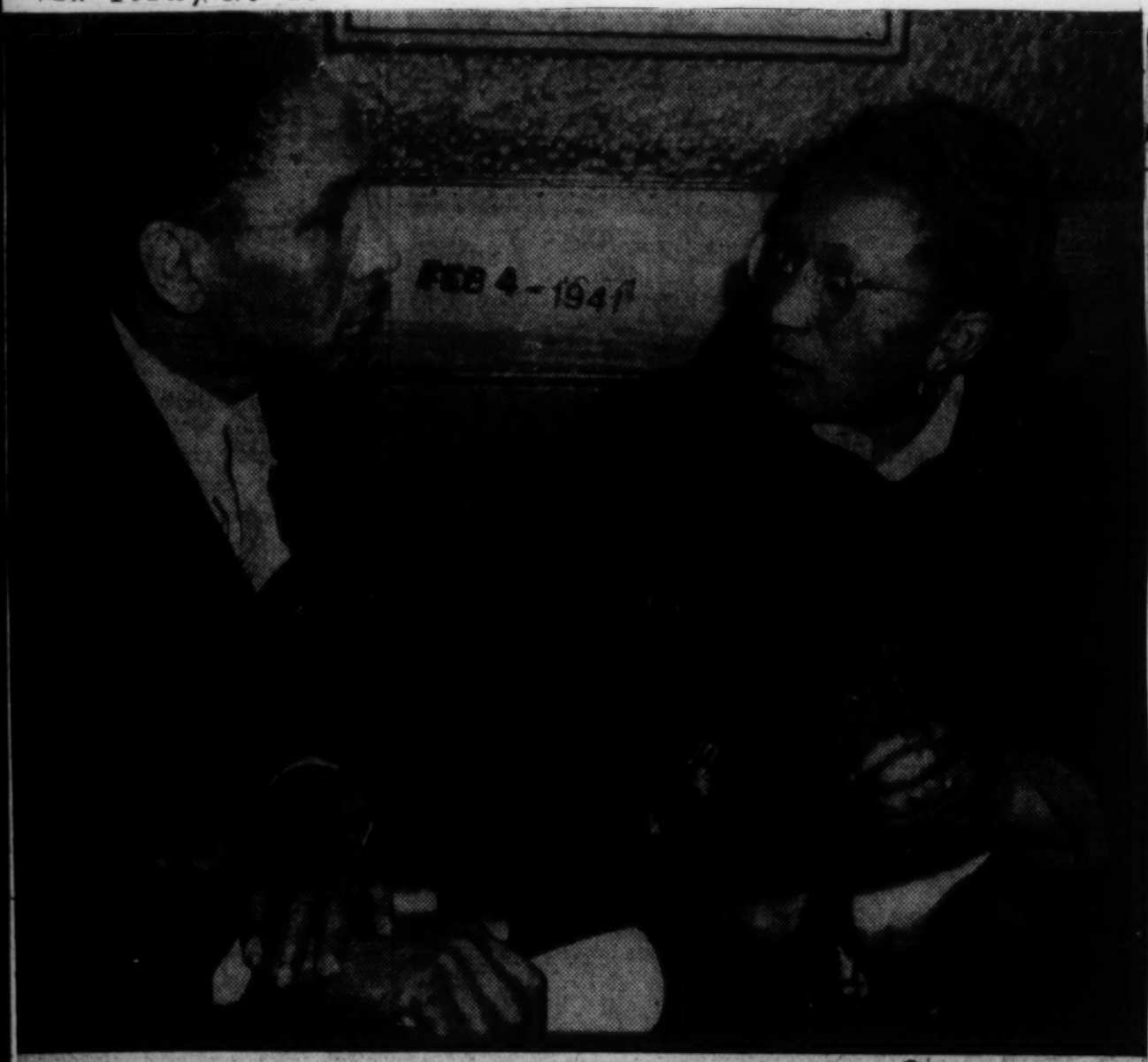
A CONNECTICUT jury's acquittal of Joseph Spell is a triumph of justice and democratic rights. For two weeks Spell, Negro chauffeur, stood trial on charges of raping his wealthy mistress, Mrs. John K. Strubing, Jr. The evidence of his innocence was so overwhelming that the jury could not, in elementary fairness, have rendered a different verdict. It is almost unprecedented, however, for a white jury to acquit a Negro who has been framed by a white man or woman, no matter how brazen the frameup. In the North as well as the deep South "white supremacy" traditions decree that the black man is always guilty. Yet in the Spell case the jury refused to be swayed by the lynch vocabulary of a prosecuting attorney, the biased behavior of the judge, or considerations of Mrs. Strubing's "shame" should the verdict go against her. Their decision was based on testimony that admitted of only one interpretation, and Prosecutor Willis, after insisting that Spell be held in jail for two days following the acquittal, was forced to concede that he had no basis for an appeal. The acclaim given the acquittal not only by Negroes but democratic-minded people everywhere is more impressive than the shrill protests of Mrs. Strubing's socialite friends.

FEB 11 1941

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The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

CONNECTICUT
Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.



Reunion in New York: Soon after he arrived in New York after his release from the Bridgeport jail, following his vindication upon the "rape" charge of his former employer, Joseph Spell was greeted by his wife, Mrs. Virgis Clark Spell. Mr. and Mrs. Spell are shown here in the offices of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Mrs. Spell stuck by her husband loyally throughout the 8-day ordeal of his trial and his 53 days of imprisonment awaiting trial on a charge the jury found groundless.

—Daily Worker Photo

"I Love Him Dearly," Mrs. Spell Says, "We Shall Get Married Soon"

FEB 8 1941

By MARVEL COOKE

"I love Joe with all my heart."

That simple statement might have sounded trite had it been made by anyone but Ver common-law-wife of Joseph Spell, who won an acquittal in the "Strubing quadruple rape case day up in Bridgeport. Though worn from long, gruelling days of suspense and torture, she a sincerity Tuesday that belied contradiction.

"We intend to make our marriage legal as soon as we can arrange for Joe to get a divorce."

She dwelt but a moment on Joseph's unfortunate first marriage stating that she, Joe's first wife and Joe were all playmates in their home town, Lafayette, La.

"As a matter of fact, I've known and loved Joseph as long as I've known myself," is the way she explains it.

"But being legally married wouldn't change the quality of our love," she said.

"We already love each other as much as it is humanly possible to love and it would take more than an incident of this kind (the Strubing case) to separate us."

Vergis isn't one to quibble over such minor details as whether or not a moral issue was involved in the Strubing case—not that she believes in the controversial "double standard"—oh no' But she loves her man and if he erred, she long ago forgave him.

"I'm of a forgiving nature," she declared.

(That was a superfluous statement, for who can forget how the attractive young woman braved the rain and snow and even the chance of being picked up for speeding on the Parkway during the seven days of the trial to see that no advantage was taken of her Joseph?)

"I fought hard and prayed for Joe," she said, "and any slanderous statement made during the trial didn't have any affect on me at all, because Joe has always been considerate of me. I love him now as much as I ever did. I see no reason not to love him."

Joseph, she went on to say, was a man who kept his own counsel, and she admired him because he "never embarrassed me by throwing such incidents up in my face."

No one can, for a moment, doubt how Vergis feels about "the whole mess." She always looks straight at you when she talks and her voice rings with a sincerity and firmness born of innate honesty.

You see, Vergis believes in her man.

"I still believe that the whole thing is Mrs. Strubing's fault," she declared.

"A man's only a man, after all. Everyone knows that men are not as strong as women."

Long before the trial began, she forgot completely Mrs. Strubing's allegations which put Joseph behind the bars for nearly a month.

"I told Joe when he got on the stand to forget I was in the courtroom," she recounted.

"All I wanted was his freedom, and now that we have that, I am supremely happy."

But Vergis knows that you can't plan for the future without finding work and that is to be her next task. She said that she had not yet had time enough to pull herself together, but she had already applied for work at the Y.W.C.A. employment bureau.

"But I don't want Joseph to do any more domestic work," she declared, quickly adding, "and not for the reasons that the public would think, but for his own personal benefit. I think he will always have a dislike for that type of work because of the Strubing incident."

FEB 8 1941

From 1936 when Vegis and Joe first left Lafayette, La., together and went to Leavenworth Kans., she said, neither she nor her husband had had any difficulty finding or keeping jobs.

"Why, we've only had three jobs since we came to New York in 1938 and on one, at West Point, we stayed for two years."

A graduate of Lincoln High School at Port Arthur, Texas, Vergis, who says she is a Creole, speaks French fluently and worked at the People's Industrial Life Insurance Company in New Orleans for five years.

"I only went into domestic work," she explained, because after my mother died, I was nervous and wanted a change of environment and scenery."

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Enraged Society Matrons Protest' Spell Acquittal

Connecticut Governor Admits Wealthy Blue-Bloods Bring Pressure to 'Investigate' the Jury Verdict; Spell Still in Jail, Faces Threat by State

FEB 3 1941

By Ernest Moorer
(Daily Worker Staff Correspondent)

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Feb. 2.—The rich and socially prominent friends of Mrs. Eleanor Strubing today were out "to get" Joseph Spell in spite of the not-guilty verdict of a jury of six men and six women who weighed the evidence and rejected the "rape" charge of the society woman against her former chauffeur.

Governor Robert A. Hurley revealed today that he was being "swamped" with telegrams, all of which came from Philadelphia, home of Mrs. Strubing's extremely wealthy and ultra-socialite family.

Governor Hurley admitted that a group of Philadelphia society leaders had "protested to him" and said the protest was led and "organized by" Mrs. Frank Rutan of Ardmore, Pa., fashionable Philadelphia suburb. The governor quoted Mrs. Rutan as saying that "we are all of us just beside ourselves" with rage at the jury's verdict. She demanded that the governor "investigate" the verdict.

FEB 3 1941

Meanwhile, as State's Attorney Lorin W. Willis, utilizing a peculiarity of Connecticut law, was holding Spell in jail for an additional 48 hours, another ominous note crept into the case with the announcement of a New York state district attorney that his office might now attempt to "get" Spell.

District Atty. Albert T. Gallagher of Westchester County told the Bridgeport Herald by telephone that his office was "seriously considering" the case and might move in when the state of Connecticut has "taken final action." During her wild account, which the Superior Court jury here refused to believe, Mrs. Strubing claimed Spell drove her into New York State.

The New York prosecutor declined to say what charge he might make against Spell, while the Bridgeport Herald speculated that it might be "kidnaping." It was recalled that during the early stages of the case, Spell was exhaustively questioned by FBI operatives who dropped out of the case.

While Spell is being held technically the "legal limit" of 48 hours under the strange Connecticut law it actually amounts to more than 60 hours that he may be held, because the same peculiar statute does not consider Sunday a day. Thus Spell, declared innocent by the jury on the overwhelming weight of evidence in his favor, may not be released until Tuesday morning when court reconvenes.

Under this law the state has the "right" to appeal the verdict, a procedure which is permitted in Connecticut in the face of the constitutional ban against placing a defendant "in double jeopardy" under the same charge.

Meanwhile, the Bridgeport newspapers were making little effort to conceal their disappointment at the not-guilty verdict.

The Sunday Herald ran a full page of lurid sketches by a staff artist obviously prepared before the verdict and in anticipation of a verdict of "guilty." The caption over the page read: "The Jury Failed to Believe This Pictorial Tale of Horror." The pictures were arranged in a sequence based entirely on the discredited story of Mrs. Strubing and were as lurid an incitement to lynch hysteria as ever appeared in print.

A secondary story in the same paper bitterly attacks the Greenwich police department for "muffing" the case. The paper's anger was directed at Police Sergeant John J. Teuffel who testified first against Spell, but because of many gaps in his testimony was recalled to the stand by the defense.

It was then that he was forced to admit that Mrs. Strubing's doctor, Francis G. Zeier of White Plains, had admitted to him that an "agreement" existed between Mrs. Strubing and the man she accused of "raping" her.

This testimony, reluctantly given by the policeman, was decisive because it completely shattered the contention of "rape" and substantiated beyond a doubt the defense contention that a voluntary relationship existed between Mrs. Strubing and Spell.

The jury had deliberated the case a little more than 12½ hours when they came out with a request that this testimony be read to them by the court stenographer. After hearing it they retired for only seven minutes and came out with the unequivocal verdict of "not guilty."

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Holding Spell In Jail Angers Local Negroes

FEB 3 1941

By Eugene Franklin
(Special to the Daily Worker)

BRIDGEPORT, Feb. 2.—One of the first questions put to me as a newspaperman by persons I questioned on the Spell-Strubing case in this New England industrial town today was why the Negro butler was still being held in jail after having been acquitted by the verdict of the mixed jury last Friday night.

"What I can't understand is this," a Negro youth, one of a group of three who talked to me beneath a big movie sign announcing the anti-Negro film, "Gone With the Wind," somewhere along the main street. "Why are they still holding Spell in jail after they've said he isn't guilty?"

FEB 3 1941

One of the boys tried to explain to his companion that an old Connecticut law permitted the high sheriff to hold a prisoner 48 hours, "until they can find out if they can pin anything else on you."

"I never heard of such a law," the first youth declared. "And even if I did I think it's a bad law."

The other two agreed.

They thought the jury's verdict was "fine" but felt that, after all, there hadn't been anything else the six men and six women could do, if they were honest.

"Listen," one of the boys said. "I've worked for people like this Mrs. Strubing, and as soon as I heard of this case I just knew what was coming."

He added that there wasn't a young fellow in service" in all Bridgeport who perhaps could not tell a story from his own experience "about these rich people who don't have anything else to do but amuse themselves."

The youths suggested that if I wanted to get a variety of opinions I should go to the church around the corner, on Arch St. If I hurried I could get there before the services were let out.

The church on Arch St. was the Messiah Baptist, whose pastor is the Rev. F. W. Jacobs. A young man, an usher, seeing that I was a stranger, answered questions and invited me to sit until church was out. He suggested that I send my name up to the Rev. Mr. Jacobs and that perhaps it would be announced from the pulpit. I did.

The minister finished taking up a collection for helping defray the expense of removing from the Worlds Fair grounds to Virginia Union University the building which the Belgian government has given that Negro institution. Then he announced to the congregation that I was there and suggested that they might see me after church.

Among the score of persons with whom I spoke in the church was the Rev. Mr. Jacobs himself, a kindly and enlightened man. The jury, he said, rendered a verdict in accordance with the facts, although, he noted, this is not the first time there have been such facts in a case involving a Negro man and a white woman.

"I feel sure," he said, "that in the South there are many Strubing cases but that they never reach the courts because the Negro men involved are lynched even before they can be arrested."

An usher agreed with the suggestion that the cry "Rape!" sometimes not even involves illicit relations between a man and a woman.

"They know," he said, "that if they say they've been raped by a Negro they can get him, no matter what he did—even if he just wanted a little more wages"

"It was a clean verdict," a church officer said. "I'm glad it was a mixed jury. Those women couldn't be fooled by that Mrs. Strubing. They could see through her."

He felt, as did a number of others, that, although the verdict had been favorable to Spell, the case itself had helped make it harder for Negro domestic workers a number of whom had already been fired. He did not say so, but it is undoubtedly true also that the bosses of the "defense" industry in and around Bridgeport will try to use the case as an additional excuse for shutting out Negro labor.

"THEIR OWN LAWS"

A number of men and women, gathered in a small room at the back of the church for Sunday school, was soon resolved into a lively discussion group, the reporter from the Daily Worker in the role of "prompter."

They unanimously resented the state's threat to "appeal" the jury's verdit of acquittal. After a brief discussion of the issue they agreed that if the law allows the state of Connecticut that right of appeal, it is a very strange law.

"It looks like they're just mad, now, and intend to get him any old way," one women said. "They have their laws and they make up abide by them, but if the verdit isn't just what they want, they try to get around heir own laws."

The Sunday school group was unanimous also in their belief that somebody should advise Spell not to carry out the intention, as ascribed to him by some newspapers, to go to Louisiana. If he is wise, they said, he will remain away from the South

On my way to the jail, where I hoped to see Spell, I questioned an uncounted number of Negro people respecting their views of the acquittal, what they thought of his still being held after having been found innocent of the state's charge, and whether they felt that many of the South's lynchings come from situations actually having nothing to do with "rape."

It occurred to me, contemplating their answers, that those of them who inclined to take a pessimistic view of the case even though Spell was acquitted would find before long that this verdict of not guilty was a victory of far-reaching consequences for all the Negro people. Some of the Negro citizens of Bridgeport see that fact already.

Their opinions in general sum up to about this: The jury's verdict

see Spell, in spite of the fact that he is supposed now to be a free man.

FEB 3 1941

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CONNECTICUT

6702

Jury Acquits Negro Accused Of Attack On Pretty Employer

However, Butler Still Behind Bars While New Action Studied

FEB 1 - 1941

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. —(AP) —Joseph Spell, 31-year-old Negro butler accused of attacking his pretty, socially prmoinent employer, Mrs. Eleanor Strubing, of Greenwich, won an acquittal from a mixed jury that deliberated nearly 13 hours.

37h

Urged by the state to convict and spare Mrs. Strubing "shame and disgrace" and asked by the defense to ignore the consequences to her if there was "reasonable" doubt of her story, the jury retired at 11:12 a.m. Friday. It reported its verdict six minutes before midnight.

Though acquitted, the short, stockily-built Spell remained behind bars. Prosecutor Lorin W. Willis, as soon as he heard the verdict, moved that Spell's bail of $15,000 be continued until the state determined "what course of action is to be pursued." The defense did not oppose the motion.

Philip Strubing, of Philadelphia, brother-in-law of Mrs. Strubing, was the only member of the family present at the verdict, although her husband, John K. Strubing, Jr., New York advertising man and former Princeton athlete, had remained until early in the evening.

The 32-year-old Mrs. Strubing herself was in court only for the day and a half she spent on the stand last week.

News

It was then that she told the jury of six women and six men her story—termed "fantastic" by the defense—of being accosted by Spell in her home the night of Dec. 10 as she emerged from a shower, of struggling at first and then being silenced and rendered helpless by Spell's threat to kill her and finally of being driven in her own car to a reservoir in North Castle, N. Y., where she said Spell hurled her into the water.

Pict.

A truck driver found Mrs. Strubing at the reservoir's edge, hysterical, her clothing wet.

Spell, in her employ less than two months, was arrested that morning in the basement of the Strubing home.

FEB 1 - 1941

Under the questioning of counsel provided by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Spell solidly denied her version of the story. He insisted he went to her room only to ask for money to send his sick mother, that she gave it to him readily and "led me on," that he used no force upon her and that she went with him willingly to the reservoir where he let her out at her request and pleaded in vain with her to return home.

Mrs. Strubing's husband was away on a business trip at the time.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Impartial Jurists Then Acquit Chauffeur Of Attack Charges

FEB 8 1941

BRIDGEPORT, Conn.—In his charge to the jury Friday, Jan. 31, in the sensational case of Joseph Spell versus Eleanor Strubing (Mrs. Strubing charged Spell, her chauffeur, with rape), Superior Court Justice Carl Foster warned the jurors against letting the race question enter their minds.

"The fact that the defendant is colored and the complaining witness is a white woman should not be considered," he said.

"I was impressed by the remark of a colored talisman who was examined, but not accepted, for jury service at the start of this trial. He said that this is a case of person, not a case of race against race. Technically, he was in error. This is not a case of person against person. It is the case of the state of Connecticut against Joseph Spell."

In referring to the defense charge that Mrs. Strubing had been "immodest" when she answered Spell's call from her shower bath and later came virtually naked into her adjoining bedroom, Judge Foster said:

"The state claims that she (Mrs. Strubing) was mistress of the home and he (Spell) was the butler and she was accustomed to having her instructions obeyed. (Mrs. Strubing said after she answered Spell's call, she told him to wait outside the bedroom). The state claims that with a feeling of security she entered her sleeping room, believing he had followed her instructions and retired.

FEB 8 1941

"I charge you that even if under the circumstances Mrs. Strubing used poor judgment for her own protection, such facts in themselves do not give the accused any license to have sexual intercourse with her against her will. And that if under these circumstances he did have sexual intercourse with her against her will, he committed rape."

Taking up another point in the case, Judge Foster charged that "even if on one or more occasions Mrs. Strubing on account of weakness or fear, consented to sexual intercourse and on one occasion it was by force, the defendant then is guilty of the crime of rape. If each time it was done without force on his part and with her consent, even though it was unlawful, it was not rape. If once it was done by force and without her consent, it was rape."

At 11:15 a. m. the jury retired for its deliberation. 12 hours and 38 minutes later it delivered a verdict acquitting Joseph Spell.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Trial of Spell To Be Resumed In Bridgeport

Negro Will Get First Chance to Refute 'Rape' Charge

JAN 28 1941

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Jan. 27.—The trial of Joseph Spell, Negro chauffeur, accused by his socialite former employer of "rape", will be resumed in Superior Court here tomorrow (Tuesday) and the development of the case throughout the week will see Spell's own story presented for the first time in court.

State's Attorney Lorin W. Willis was near the end of the prosecution's testimony when the trial recessed for the week-end Friday. He said, however, that he expected to put on another witness tomorrow which would "open up a new line of questioning."

One report had it that Willis would offer the testimony of a nurse who cared for Spell's accuser, Mrs. John F. Strubing Jr. of Greenwich. If this proves to be correct, the "new line of questioning" will be an attempt to arouse the sympathies of the jury for Mrs. Strubing, a former Philadelphia socialite.

The prosecution was expected to conclude its case tomorrow or Wednesday. The defense, headed by Attorney Samuel E. Friedman of Bridgeport, will then offer testimony to break down Mrs. Strubing's sobbing, half-hysterical account of having been "raped" several times on the night of Dec. 10 and the morning of Dec. 11.

Judge Carl Foster is presiding.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

2 Veniremen on Spell Panel

JAN 25 1941

JAN 25 1941

BRIDGEPORT, Conn.—At noon Tuesday, three jurors had already been chosen in the Superior Court trial of Joseph Spell, butler-chauffeur, accused of criminally attacking his white employer, Mrs. Eleanor Strubing, Greenwich socialite.

Those accepted were Lester G. Gilman, a Norwalk draftsman; Mrs. Anna E. Griffin, a Stratford housewife, and Mrs. Elizabeth C. Richmond, wife of a Greenwich manufacturer.

All 38 veniremen on the panel to be examined as possible jurors are white except the Rev. James W. Watson and Robert Thompson both of Bridgeport.

The Rev. Mr. Watson was later excused. The defense is stressing the possibility of Mrs. Strubing's voluntary relationship with Spell.

Several prospective jurors were excused when they said that they did not believe that Mrs. Strubing would have a voluntary relationship with her chauffeur-butler.

Accuser Absent

Mrs. Strubing was not in the courtroom during the morning. However, it was considered certain that she would take the stand early in the presentation of evidence, either late Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning.

Spell's wife was sitting in the rear of the courtroom. Her presence there indicated that she might be a witness in the case.

Judge Carl Foster is presiding at the trial. Spell, guarded by three deputy sheriffs, sat near his counsel, Samuel Friedman of Bridgeport and Thurgood Marshall of the NAACP, and showed signs of nervousness.

Youth Shot in Foot

HACKENSACK, N.J.—William Harman, 22, of 58 Michael Street, was arrested at his home following an outbreak of gunplay at 293 Second Street, last week in which Leonard Boyd, 19, of 19 Lenney Street, South Hackensack, was shot in the foot.

Removed to the Hackensack hospital, Boyd was given emergency treatment and held for observation. Herman was booked on an open charge. Archie Palmer, 20, of 17 High Street, was arrested as a material witness.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Prosecutor in Spell Case Whips Up Race Hatreds

Appeals to Worst Prejudices in Attempted Flights Of Oratory in His Summation to Jury; Defense Reviews Spell Story

By Ernest Moorer JAN 31 1941
(Daily Worker Staff Correspondent)

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Jan. 30. — The case of Joseph Spell, Negro chauffeur charged with "rape" by his rich former employer, neared the jury today as opposing lawyers made final arguments before the six men and six women who must decide his fate.

The summation were marked by defense attorney Samuel E. Friedman's review of Spell's simple and coherent story of having responded to an invitation by Mrs. John K. Strubing Jr., the Greenwich society woman who accuses him, and by a heavy - handed attempt through insinuation and flights of oratory by state attorney Lorin Willis to inflame racial prejudice against the man who faces a possible maximum sentence of 30 years.

At one point he pleaded for Spell's conviction on the ground that Mrs. Strubing would be socially ruined if he was acquitted.

Rising to a crescendo of attempted oratorical eloquence, Willis shouted:

"An acquittal of Spell brands this woman as unfit to associate with decent people. It would send her forth with a marred reputation shattered beyond all repair. No spot on earth would be dark enough to hide the shame that will go with her to the last day she lives. . . . It would be far better for her if her body had sunk in Kensico Reservoir that morning."

He referred to Spell, pointing at him as he did so, as "this lust-mad, half intoxicated Negro. . . ." It is impossible to describe the sneering accent in the man's voice as he enunciated the word, "Negro."

Friedman called upon the jury, all of whom are white, to "be fair and impartial in doing your job. The color of Joseph Spell should not count against him."

STRESSES POLICE TESTIMONY

He stressed the testimony of three policemen who had readily admitted that Spell had made no effort to escape and that he had in fact returned to the Strubing home.

"No guilty man could do that," he argued, pointing out that Spell was waiting there when the police arrived and had been there for some time although his car stood in the garage inviting him to attempt to escape if he had any feeling of guilt.

Friedman also emphasized an important weakness of the prosecution's case: He pointed to testimony by Mrs. Strubing of a "ransom note" she said Spell forced her to write and the prosecution's charge that Spell "attempted to murder her" by drowning her in Kensico Reservoir, and asked:

"If they (the state) really believe these things, why do they not press the more serious charge of attempted murder or kidnapping?"

Against Spell's straightforward story he contrasted Mrs. Strubing's frequent "lapses of memory" and her repeated remarks of "I'm so confused."

CITES CHANCES TO ESCAPE

He urged the jury to remember that, according to Mrs. Strubing's own story, she could have locked herself in the bathroom when she said Spell "menaced" her, that she had several opportunities to telephone for help if indeed she needed any and that she freely admitted that Spell had left her on several occasions during the night of Dec. 10 giving her ample opportunity to "escape" if indeed she was being held against her will as she charged.

Friedman scored a striking point when he reminded the jury that several items, including a pocket knife with which the prosecution charged Spell "threatened" Mrs. [illegible] on Spell's person when he was arrested, although he had ample opportunity to dispose of all of them.

And in conclusion he recalled that four doctors, all prominent physicians, had come to the witness stand and blown to bits the testimony of the only physician who had supported Mrs. Strubbing's story. The four physicians testified that there was nothing in the account of "injuries" received by Mrs. Strubbing to indicate that she had been raped.

APPEALS TO PREJUDICE

Argument for the state was opened by assistant state attorney Otto Sauer, but he left to Willis, his chief, the main job of attempting to fan racial hatred against Spell.

Willis sought to accomplish this both by appealing for sympathy for Mrs. Strubing and by inference with a heavy race prejudice slant at Spell.

Throughout the oratorical spectacle created by Willis as he passed up and down before the jury, sometimes letting his voice fall so low that it could not be heard in the hushed court room and some times shouting to tax his lungs, Spell sat watching him and listening closely but without a trace of fear or panic on his face.

Judge Carl Foster will charge the jury tomorrow morning and has already served notice that his charge will be a lengthy one. The case will reach the jury tomorrow afternoon.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

NAACP Says No Proof Of Rape Against Negro Held For Superior Court

JAN 2 1941

GREENWICH, Conn. With NAACP defense counsel charging that the "State has failed utterly to connect defendant with this offense," Judge William C. Strong denied their motion to dismiss the complaint against a 31-year-old chauffeur, Joseph Spell, whose employer, wealthy Mrs. John T. Strubing, charged he had raped her four times, near White Plains, N. Y., early on the morning of December 11.

Present in Greenwich Town Court, from which the public was barred, were Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and Samuel Friedman, of Bridgeport, Conn., who is conducting the defense. The hearing was held after three postponements.

Mrs. Strubing Absent

Friedman protested the failure of the prosecutor to produce Mrs. Strubing in court. "I earnestly believe," he said, "that Mrs. Strubing has no intention of appearing in court." He pointed out that the defense, because it had no opportunity to cross question her, was hampered in its conduct of the case. Assistant Prosecutor Archibald H. Tunick had promised to produce her in court, but it was learned that the socialite and former model had gone to the home of her parents in Philadelphia, Pa.

Dr. Francis G. Zier, the physician who first examined Mrs. Strubing and was retained as her physician, was the only witness who directly linked Spell's name with the case. In answer to the prosecutor's question as to the name of the man Mrs. Strubing said had raped her, the physician replied: "She said Joseph Spell."

Offered No Resistance

The only other witnesses, none of whom connected Spell with the charge, were: James J. Restel, of Great Barrington, Mass., a truck driver who said he saw Mrs. Strubing wandering on the road near Kenisco reservoir with "cuts and bruises" on her legs; and sergeant Robert H. Fitzroy, of the Greenwich police force. Sergeant Fitzroy said Spell offered "not the slightest resistance," when he arrested him in the Strubing home.

Despite the protests of defense attorneys Marshall and Friedman, Judge Strong had the courtroom cleared of spectators except those connected with the case, and reporters.

The case is now scheduled to go to trial sometime during the January term of the Superior Court in Bridgeport, Conn.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

BLUEBLOODS WOULD PROBE SPELL JURY

FEB 8 1941

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Feb. 6—Philadelphia blue-bloods have rallied to the defense of Mrs. Eleanor Paul Strubings, socially prominent mainliner from the Quaker City, whose charge of being criminally assaulted by her colored butler, Joseph Spell, was doubted by a jury here last week when Spell was acquitted.

The Philadelphia socialites have sent over 200 telegrams to the Governor of Connecticut calling the verdict a disgrace and asking for an investigation of the [illegible] ings.

Spell's release on Monday and the decision of the State Attorney not to press the additional charges against the accused man is believed the cause behind the deluge of telegrams from the irate blue-bloods.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Cops Guard Spell on Arrival in New York

FEB 15 1941

NEW YORK, Feb. 13 (ANP)—Joseph Spell arrived in New York at Grand Central station on Tuesday afternoon and was met by a detail of eight New York policemen to prevent any untoward demonstration or bodily harm.

6703

Mrs. Strubing's Rape Saga At Trial Confuses Her And Everybody Else

FEB 1 1941

— BULLETIN —

BRIDGEPORT, Conn.—Because he had been at one time a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Robert A. Thompson was on Wednesday, Jan. 22 excluded from the jury panel hearing the trial of Joseph Spell, 31-year-old butler and chauffeur whose white socialite employer, Mrs. John K. Strubing, Jr., charges that he attacked her several times on the night of last December 10.

Sam Friedman, one of the defense attorneys, took exception to Superior Court Justice Carl Foster's declaration that "If this man is not chosen, no harm will be done; if he is chosen, harm might be done." And so an all-white jury of six men and six women will hear the case.

Chicago Sun

BRIDGEPORT, Conn.—Before Superior Court Justice Carl Foster on January 23, Mrs. Eleanor Strubing, white, charged her chauffeur-butler, Joseph Spell, with raping her three times during the night and early morning of December 10-11, and finally throwing her into the Kensico reservoir.

Spell, who is expected to take the stand in his own defense Tuesday, Jan. 28, is being tried before a jury of six men and six women. He is represented by Attys. Sam and Erwin Friedman, retained by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Spell faces the maximum sentence of 30 years in prison if convicted.

Mrs. Strubing's testimony tottered on inconsistencies, contradictions and significant lapses of memory, resulting in all-around confusion. Even the lady's husband, John K. Strubing, an advertising executive, who was away on the night of the alleged attacks, has been strangely silent. Not once thus far has it been recorded that he has demanded the maximum penalty for Spell, nor has he defended his wife as evidence of his complete confidence in her story.

The incident of the policemen and the car in the early morning hours of December 11 is wrapped in contradictions. It is interesting to note the various versions of that episode in Mrs. Strubing's "night of terror."

"Once during the first ride" (there were two, away from the Strubing colonial home and back), states one report, "a police car drove up beside where Spell and Mrs. Strubing were parked. But the policemen failed to see her lying with her head under the steering wheel."

But on the stand, Thursday, Jan. 23, Mrs. Strubing answered "Yes" to the question: "Your head was up and so was Joseph's?"

Sam Friedman, counsel for the defense, asked: "Sometime during the ride two policemen drove up and looked into your car, didn't they?" Mrs. Strubing replied that the policemen "didn't look in." But three questions later she testified that the policemen flashed a light into the car.

Once she stated she was gagged at the time the policemen came up, but later admitted there "might not have been a gag" in her mouth.

In what the daily papers called a "misstatement," Mrs. Strubing said Spell raped her the second time on the living room divan with her ankles bound together. She attempted to correct this statement by saying she "meant to say" her wrists were bound together.

Reports on the case refer repeatedly to the "penknife" used by Spell, according to the allegation, to force Mrs. Strubing to submit to his advances. Yet the knife exhibited in court was a (to quote) "formidable looking weapon with two blades. It was in a red holster, like a hunting knife."

Mrs. Strubing lost and regained her memory throughout her testimony. She remembered minute details of comparatively unimportant things, but did not recall whether or not she was gagged; exactly how many times she was raped (later reports set the number at four instead of three, on the testimony of Patrolman Chester Pietschker of the North Castle, N. Y., force); how the jewels, which she was supposed to have given Spell to escape his attentions, got back into her jewel box; just why, when she saw Spell in her bedroom, she continued into the room clad only in a towel, instead of stepping back into the bathroom and locking the door on her intruder.

Mrs. Strubing described her strange submissiveness as "fear for her life." She stated she put up no fight, made no outcry, nor did she knock over a telephone, though she was close enough to one on two occasions.

The nation waits to hear the defendant, Spell, tell his side of the story for the first time.

Spell Promises To "Tell All" When He Takes Witness Stand

FEB 1 1941 — Courier — FEB 1 1941

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Jan. 30.—The second phase of Connecticut's famous rape trial will get under way this week when a former houseman in the home of Mrs. John K. Strubing, socially important white society matron, takes the witness stand in self-defense. According to the denfense, sensations are promised. The houseman, Joseph Spell, 31, is accused of attacking the attractive 32-year-old Mrs. Strubing, either three or four times—depending on who tells the story. But whether three or four, the attacks took place between 10 p. m., and daybreak on December 10-11.

WERE THERE THREE ATTACKS?—OR FOUR!

Mrs. Strubing testified last week under direct examination that there were three attacks, but a police officer, Patrolman Chester Pietschker, to whom she first told her story on the morning of December 11, after she had been picked up by a truck driver on a road bordering on Kensico Reservoir, a few miles north of New York City, followed her to the witness stand and testified that she told him of four attacks—the first one in the bedroom of her Greenwich, Conn., home, the second time in the living room, the third time on the kitchen floor and the fourth in a steamer chair in the basement.

In the main, however, Mrs. Strubing's testimony followed the affidavit which she had made out on December 11. It was to the effect that Spell had invaded her bedroom on the night of December 10 while she was taking a shower bath.

She ordered the houseman from the room, but he insisted on remaining. She said she offered him money and jewelry and told him to go away, but he refused everything and finally forced her in bed and raped her.

He made her dress, forced her to write a ransom note for $5,000 which was to be sent to her husband who was away in Cincinnati on a business trip, took her to the garage, forced her into the Strubing family car and went for a long ride. At one stage of her testimony she said that she had been gagged when they left the Strubing home on Round Hill Road, but she could not recall whether or not she was still gagged when he parked the car by the side of the road.

MADE NO OUTCRY WHEN POLICE APPROACHED CAR

Two police officers drove up shortly afterward, approached the car and flashed a light within and told Spell to get moving, that no parking was allowed in that vicinity. Mrs. Strubing admitted that she made no outcry, but she said she [illegible] to see why the officers did [illegible]ect that something was wrong.

According to the affidavit and her own testimony from the stand, Spell left the scene and returned to the Strubing home. The third attack then occurred on the floor of the kitchen, and after that he left her for a while and went to the pantry.

There was a phone upstairs by her bed and several phones downstairs, but although Spell left her frequently to go to other sections of the house, she admitted that she did not make an attempt to reach a phone or to even knock down a receiver. She said she was afraid that Spell would kill her if he had found out what she had done.

Dr. Francis G. Seier, a young physician, to whose office Mrs. Strubing was taken after the alleged attack, testified that his examination of Mrs. Strubing showed signs of swelling and irritation as from a recent sexual contact. He said the woman was distraught and histerical. The state has produced a long knife, which Spell has admitted owning, but there has been no sign of the ransom note and the policemen who allegedly approached them in the parker car have not been found as yet.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Hint Socialite Mrs. Strubing May Not Prosecute Butler Accused of Attacking Her

JAN 4 1941

By J. ROBERT SMITH
(Staff Correspondent)

JAN 4 1941

COURT HOUSE, GREENWICH, Conn.—Will Joseph Spell, the 31-year-old butler involved i nthe "Strubing quadruple rape case" become a victim of New England injustice by means of political interference?

Such a probability was indicative from the objection raised by defense attorney Samuel Friedman in court last Tuesday, when continual side-bar conferences between assistant State's attorney Archibald Tunick and Chairman of the State Republican Party, Kenneth Bradley, of Bridgeport, tended to interfere with Mr. Friedman's cross-examination.

Growing impatient with the whispering conversations that were taking place in the court room that was cleared of all spectators besides the press, Mr. Friedman, calling the matter to the attention of the Court, said, "Mr. Bradley, I would be glad if you would cease trying this case and leave it up to Mr. Tunick who is perfectly capable of taking care of it. You are interrupting my cross-examination of the witness."

Mr. Bradley, who was seated directly before the witness stand, was perfectly quiet thorughout the rest of the trial only showing signs of emotional uneasiness whenever it was brought out that Mrs. Strubing's alleged story was questionable in regards to the phase dealing with having been "violently attacked."

Held for Superior Court

Despite the fact that Mr. Friedman argued that the butler should not be bound over to the Superior Court on the grounds that hearsay testimony offered by Dr. Francis Gilbert Zeier was not corroborated by anyone, Judge William C. Strong still held the accused under $15,000 bail for the upper court, which is scheduled to convene early in January.

In holding the butler after listening to the case from 10:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., the Judge said, "I do think in view of the evidence that I have and the nature of the proceedings, there is sufficient evidence before this Court that there is probable cause and that the crime was committed in the jurisdiction of Greenwich.

"I, therefore, bind the defendant Joseph Spell over to the next session of the Superior Court, in Bridgeport, under $15,000 bond."

Attorneys Wrangle

The private hearing was lively throughout, as attorneys for either side citing authorities to prove their respective contentions, objected frequently to legal technicalities used by the other to serve the best interest of their client.

JAN 4 194

Quoting Connecticut Law quite often, Mr. Friedman, assisted by Thurgood Marshall, NAACP attorney, and three other members of the law firm of Friedman and Friedman, argued that in the absence of Mrs. Strubing who was vacationing with her family in Devon, Pa., probable cause could not be established since it was necessary to have the testimony of witnesses confirmed by the woman who claimed that she was raped four times by her butler.

In his summation, Mr. Friedman said that no one admitted that Spell was with Mrs. Strubing that ill-fated night; that no one admitted that he raped her and that those two important factors were completely ignored during the entire hearing.

"The State has failed utterly to connect this defendant with this offense, and in view of that, I think that he should be discharged," Mr. Friedman pleaded. His request for the discharge of his client was made after the Court denied a motion made by the defense to continue the case until Mrs. Strubing was able to appear in person and identify her alleged attacker.

Three Testified

The first witness to take the stand was James A. Pastel, of 238 Main Street, Great Bank, Mass., the truck driver, who picked up the socialite on the highway and turned her over to the police. The driver was unable to furnish substantial testimony as he had not conversed with Mrs. Strubing prior to the arrival of police.

Police Sergeant Robert H. Fitzroy, on the stand for fifteen minutes testified that he made the arrest, found Spell in the basement, but did not question him. He knew no more.

Dr. Zeier, on whose testimony the accused was held, told the Court that when he examined Mrs. Strubing that she was wearing a dress which was exhibited in court, a brassiere and a slip.

He said that Mrs. Strubing told him, "my houseman must have gone berserk. He came to my door with a knife and attacked me. I dont' know what he is going to do to his poor wife. He'll probably kill her. I am awfully glad to be alive. I don't think I could have stood it much longer."

Under severe cross-examination, Dr. Zeier, who stated that police officers were present when Mrs. Strutbing made the statements to him in his office, reiterated that in his opinion the woman was forcibly attacked and probably raped.

Friedman Takes Issue

Not satisfied that the State had proved its case against the butler, who pleaded not guilty to the charge, Friedman, in taking issue with the prosecutor for not informing him that Mrs. Strubing was not going to be present at the hearing addressed the Court thus:

"This is the third time that this case has been called for trial. On two previous occasions, the prosecuting attorney asked for a continuation. The reasons given by Mr. Tunick were that he wanted to give Mrs. Strubing an opportunity to recover from her injuries so that she could appear in court.

"Now it has come to my attention that Mrs. Sttrubing has been discharged from the haospital, believing that she would have been available, I had made plans to question her. Had I known that she would not have appeared, I would have had a subpoena issued for her.

"I think that it is unfair to the accused, and I would have welcomed the opportunity to cross-examine her. I have also learned that she is outside of the jurisdiction of this court. I relied upon the State's advice and found out that I have been misled."

Overruled Motion

At this point, Mr. Friedman made the motion for dismissal of the case since there was no one in court ready to make positive identification of Spell.

Judge Strong overruled the motion, declaring that Mrs. Strubing's presence in court was not necessary. Mr. Tunick advised the Court that Mrs. Strubing's mental condition was such that she would be unable to appear for a month.

Must Appear in Court

The Amsterdam News learned that State's Attorney Lorin Willis, who will prosecute for the State, has advised the wealthy socialite that he will dismiss the case unless she is prepared to go on the stand and tell a coherent and truthful story.

Willis is taking a hard-boiled attitude towards Mrs. Strubing's story and so far as he is concerned the society woman will have to carry the burden of the case.

It was further learned that if she offers an unsatisfactory excuse for failing to appear as chief witness and seeks to delay trial, the defense will move for a dismissal and it is understood that the Court will view such a motion with sympathetic eyes.

He has consistently denied Mrs. Strubing's story, but admitted that his former employer, "ordered me to take her riding, I didn't want to."

Nation
New York, N. Y.

FEB 8 1941

DEMOCRACY GAINED A LOCAL VICTORY OF considerable importance when a jury in Bridgeport, Connecticut, acquitted Joseph Spell of the charge of raping Mrs. John K. Strubing, Jr. Spell is a Negro; he was employed as butler and chauffeur by the woman who accused him of attacking her. He admitted freely that he and Mrs. Strubing had had sexual relations and that he had driven her on the same night to the Kensico reservoir near where she was found dripping and hysterical early in the morning. All these facts, colored by class and race prejudice, might easily have tipped the scales against Spell. The evidence pointing to his guilt was, to be sure, unconvincing and contradictory, and its credibility was not increased by the obvious mental confusion of the alleged victim, who was the only eye-witness. But in many circumstances and places, such factors would have weighed very little against the emotions aroused by the charge of rape brought by a white woman against a colored man. That they brought a verdict of acquittal in this case is a tribute to both the men and the women who made up the jury and to Judge Foster whose charge was a model of fairness and detachment.

FEB 8 1941

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Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Hysteria Following Spell-Strubing Verdict Unfortunate, Dangerous

IN MORE ways than one the whole Strubing-Spell affair is unfortunate and regrettable. But let us forget the sordid details. Put prejudice out the window and remember what Judge Foster stated in his charge to the jury: "This is not a case of one race against another or of Mrs. Strubing against Spell, but the State of Connecticut against Spell."

FEB 6 1941

In our opinion no good purpose can be served by a useless discussion of the matter. Certain society women on the Main Line and Chestnut Hill are interjecting hysteria in a case where there should be calm and deliberate thought. They are saying and writing things which will do no one any good.

They should heed the admonition of the trial Judge. This is not a matter of racial identity or social standing. Spell happened to be a colored man and Mrs. Strubing a white woman. The colored group in America was not on trial in the court room. Nor should colored people be put on trial by public opinion. And white womanhood was not on trial in that court room. It is unfair to inject any such idea into this case.

The mere fact that the case was given widespread publicity shows that it was an unusual case. There are thousands of colored men employed in white homes all over America; and for people to select one instance as proof positive of something which does not exist is hysterical to say the least.

FEB 6 1941

The important thing is that the duly constituted authority was not wrecked by prejudice. The jury of six white women and six white men, after deliberating for 13 hours, acquitted the accused. They heard the evidence. They believed the defendant. If courts of law are to mean anything, that verdict should be final. And if those jurors had believed him innocent but convicted him because of his color, they would have made another black mark against justice. Considering that American prejudice is as it is, it is unbelievable that the jury would have acquitted Spell if they thought him guilty.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

I WRITE AS I SEE

By ARTHUR HUFF FAUSET

The Strange Case Of Mrs. Strubing

FEB 6 1941

In Georgia or Mississippi he would have been lynched as surely as fate. In Philadelphia he would have been lucky with a 10-20-year sentence after the "impartial" judge had reminded the jury that below the Mason and Dixon line there would have been no need of a trial. Thank heavens, Joseph Spell's trial occurred in Connecticut, and he was —yes, shout it to the heavens,— ACQUITTED!



FAUSET

This is a remarkable victory for Joseph Spell; and the NAACP, which rushed to his defense, should feel prouder of this victory than of almost any other achievement in its long and distinguished history.

FEB 6 1941

But the news beneath the news, which is even more important itself, is this: Joseph Spell emerged victorious because some people refused to believe that he was guilty. Had Joseph Spell come up even before many of his own people, he would have been judged guilty before the trial and in spite of the trial. This is because the influence of "white" thinking is so strong in many of us that we are almost equally guilty of the lynch spirit.

"BAD" NEGROES

Recently, in the case of the mass arrest of Negroes in Philadelphia, I spoke with a number of Negroes who said something like this: "It was a terrible thing; but then you know that is an awful neighborhood; there are bad Negroes down there, and they are likely to do anything."

This is lynch talk. It is the kind of talk that can get us nowhere. Some Negroes think they are being very broad-minded when they talk in this manner, but actually all they are doing is aping the shallow and insincere thinking of those whites who are determined that Negroes shall be suppressed at any cost.

The theory of the courtroom is that a man is innocent until he is proved guilty. The theory of the protagonists of "white supremacy" is that Negroes are always guilty.

MAY I STATE HERE, EMPHATICALLY, THAT I BELIEVE THAT THE PSYC[HOLOGY OF THE NEGRO LEADER, DOCTOR, LAWYER, TEACHER, MINISTER, ETC. SHOULD BE THAT THE NEGRO IS NEVER GUILTY?

FEB 6 1941

Only on such a basis can Negroes make the tenacious and courageous kind of fight which is necessary for victory against the tremendous odds which confront us. All the existing theories of law, education, politics, economics and politics, are being devoted to the cause of white supremacy. Let Negroes not have any illusions about this. For such supremacy, these theories are employed as weapons to strike us down and keep us down.

Well, we must fight fire with fire. Stop this taking white man's thinking at his own word. Let us do some thinking of our own; and for the very reason that the propaganda of the majority group is so oppressive upon us, let us turn heaven and earth developing our own propaganda and our own method of combat.

NEW EDUCATION VS. MISEDUCATION

I am not advocating a narrow race development. But I am warning Negroes that the education of the Negro up to now is not the kind that will bring victories like the one Joseph Spell just won. Such victories can be achieved only if we believe in ourselves even when our actions appear completely at odds with what we have been taught to be the actions of "cultural, educated" creatures.

There is not space to develop these ideas further at this time. But I want to stress two points. The first is that the Negro is at the place where he must consider the need of a special type of education in terms of his peculiar problems, an education to counteract his "miseducation" by white folk, and second, that one fundamental plank in the new thinking must be that we adhere to this principle: that in American society the Negro is never guilty.

(The ideas expressed in the above column do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of this newspaper.—Editor's Note.)

6784

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

FEB 1 1941

Some Bad News Reporting

It may not be ethical to speak unkindly about other newspapers, but sometimes certain of them go so far afield in misleading the public that service to our own readers compel us to speak out. We are prompted to take this stand now because of the manner in which some of the daily newspapers are handling the Strubing attack story in Bridgeport.

Ever since the day after the story broke — it was flashed to this office by our representative in Connecticut — a reporter from the local staff of the Star and Amsterdam News has been daily on the scene. Working on this exclusive assignment, he has attended every hearing and has been "up front" every minute since the actual trial began. His account of the proceedings has been complete and unbiased.

Reports in the daily newspapers varied greatly. Some of them obviously played the story down, printing only facts, but not all the facts; others at times, dramatized the story giving it a twist similar to that given stories of this nature by Southern newspapers when there is a desire to fan the flames of race prejudice and whip up the mob spirit. Star + Amsterdam News

It is recalled that nearly all the dailies carried stories early during the case that "the butler had confessed." We waited to hear it read at the trial, but it never came. Obviously, Spell never confessed he attacked Mrs. Strubing, but the newspapers said so, and in saying so they stirred up bad feeling which might have resulted in violence in another community. New York

It is not hard to understand why the public so frequently gets the wrong slant on the Negro. His cause is often lost and his ambitions stifled under a mass of lies and misstatements. In the deep South where Negro reporters dare not venture to secure the truth about news stories we have to accept what is told us.

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Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Spell, Wife Visit Amsterdam Star-News





Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Spell visited The Amsterdam Star-News office Wednesday and at left, they are shown with two staff members emerging into the street again. In the center, Mrs. Spell tells her story to Marvel Cooke, Special Feature Writer for the Amsterdam Star-News and on the right, Spell himself retells his story once more to J. Robert Smith, ace reporter, who covered the trial from start to finish.



Star of Zion
Charlotte, N. C.

The Case of Joseph Spell

Nationwide attention has been focused upon this unsavory spectacle in which Joseph Spell, 31-year-old Negro servant was accused of feloniously assaulting his employer, Mrs. Eleanor Strubing, pretty Greenwich (Conn.) socialite. Spell has been acquitted by a jury of six men and six women, who evidently found no justifiable grounds for conviction, because of the weird and strange story told by the plaintiff.

FEB 6 - 1941

The whole thing is a sordid mess, an illustration of what can happen in so-called polite society, whose members seem to feel they can satisfy any foolish and immoral fancy and still remain decent. The state's attorney had asked for a conviction lest "shame and disgrace" fall upon Mrs. Strubing, as if what she had already admitted in evidence was not sufficient to brand her as incredibly indiscreet, if not actually responsible for what happened.

The one redeeming feature of the case is that there was found in the state a jury which had a sufficient sense of justice not to attempt a vindication of the plaintiff who availed herself of none of the many opportunities present to protect herself as well as to frustrate the unbecoming conduct on the part of her servant.

FEB 6 1941

The fact that she was white and he a Negro is of no consequence, except that in a nation where it is usual for such incidents to be seized upon to portray the perfidy of the Negro and to extoll the virtues of the white race it is encouraging to know that there are some people in some places who know what justice is and that it is to all intents and purposes blind to the race or station of the persons who come before its bars.

Spell should be admonished, and his case should be an example to others, that common sense and decency should be used for the protection of servants when such employers do not seem to have sufficient exercise of these virtues to take care of themselves.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Mr. Spell Should Thank the N.A.A.C.P. And A Liberal Press

FEB 6 1941

IN AMERICAN courts, the accused is innocent until proven guilty beyond every reasonable doubt. In Bridgeport, Conn., a few days ago a 31-year-old Negro houseman was acquitted of a heinous crime. The case drew unusual attention from coast to coast. Every newspaper in the East kept its readers informed of the daily highlights in the case which lasted seven days.

Upon learning that a man was to be tried for his life, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People immediately went into action to employ counsel for the young man, according to his story, had been "framed" and "led on" by his socially prominent employer. The defense proved, after employing several experts, that the charges were impossible under circumstances brought to light by those experts, one being of the same sex as the plaintiff. She stated that her diagnosis showed certain conditions suffered by the plaintiff could well have been caused under normal relations.

The judge was threatened. He ignored it. He instructed the jury to "pay no attention to anonymous letters that may come to me." Apparently the jury, six men and six women, did just that.

In the charge to the mixed jury, the judge said: "This is not a case of race against race, it is a case of the state against the defendant." Twelve hours after the fair-minded jury received the case with the charge of the judge, it returned a verdict of "NOT GUILTY." There was little emotion, with no demonstration of resentment against the youthful houseman. Only the two involved actually know what happened between them on the night of December 11, 1940, however the jury said NOTHING as far as the law was concerned.

FEB 6 1941

The judge's charge to the jury and the way the state handled the case only goes to prove that a man, no matter what his color or social standard may be, can get a fair and impartial trial regardless what the charges are or who the plaintiff happens to be, provided public sentiment is aroused by a vigilant press and a militant organization like the N.A.A.C.P.

It is the opinion of the average man in the streets that justice was done in this case—thanks to the N.A.A.C.P. and a liberal press.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

FEB 7 1941

Public Opinion Is Stubborn

The acquittal of the Negro chauffeur who was on trial in an eastern state charged with having raped his wealthy employer leaves no doubt of his innocence. The six men and six women who composed that jury must have believed the evidence in his favor.

Nevertheless the man is still overshadowed by public disapproval and along with him the whole race to which he belongs, because the American habit is to ascribe to Negroes faults deserving punishment, in an attempt to justify race prejudice. From the day Adam explained his sin by making the answer that "The woman Thou gavest me" caused the transgression, mankind has been quick to exculpate itself by by blaming the other fellow.

Eastern newspapers, probably as decent and well-intentioned as the press elsewhere, took up the alleged facts and gave this accused his first trial before public opinion with no chance to defend himself. Now he is acquitted, but the reputation for guilt will remain because the average reader is too loathe to surrender the conclusion he drew from his newspaper to accept innocence. At the same time the public is anxious to avoid battle with conscience over its part in American custom. One Negro guilty establishes that all Negroes are unworthy.

Many Negro guiltless prove nothing so long as the dominant majority is under the necessity of justifying itself. The way this case has been played up in the news by a smart press, proves how insistent the majority is on peace of mind to be gotten that way. Would that it sought that heaven on earth by doing unto others as it would be done by, rather than continuing to do evil to others and then justifying it.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.



Frame-Up Smashed: Joseph Spell, whose socialite former employer, Mrs. John K. Strubing, Jr. tried to send to jail for "rape" to shield herself from shame, is shown here leaving the Fairfield County Jail in Bridgeport yesterday, 59 hours after a jury of six men and six women found him not guilty. —Daily Worker Photo

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Protests Bring Release For Acquitted Negro

Prosecutor Reluctantly Opens Jail Door for Spell; Wants to Find New Job and Help Aged Mother

FEB 4 1941

By Ernest Moorer
(Daily Worker Staff Correspondent)

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Feb. 3.—Bitterly and reluctantly Prosecutor Lorin W. Willis, who had made a violently lynch-inciting jury speech in an effort to railroad Joseph Spell to jail for a "rape" charge, had to give up today and at 11 A.M. ordered the Negro chauffeur's release.

FEB 4 1941

His action came 59 hours after a Superior Court jury of six men and six women had unequivocally declared Spell not guilty of the charge brought against him by his socialite former employer, Mrs. John K. Strubing, Jr. of Greenwich.

That the holding of Spell in the county jail after his acquittal was arousing widespread indignation was attested to by the pile of telegrams on the prosecutor's desk—the contents of which he refused to reveal.

Spell was held the additional time under a peculiar Connecticut statute which gives the prosecutor that "right" with the approval of the trial judge, who in this case was Judge Carl Foster.

Even today before he would announce his decision, Willis conferred with Judge Foster at length and then gave newspapermen a statement scolding the jury for its action.

"All I want to say," he said, "is that I have carefully considered the advisability of an appeal. I am, however, forced to the conclusion that there is no issue of law involved which would justify this." . . . He said he "completely disagreed" with the jury's verdict, which was obvious after snarling appeal to racial prejudice against Spell throughout the trial and especially when he addressed the jury last Thursday.

Smiling, his extra clothes and personal articles in a big brown bundle, Joseph Spell walked out of the Fairfield County Jail at 12:35 P.M.

FEB 4 1941

NEEDS A JOB

"I want to settle down and find a good job," he said. He said he hoped it would be a job as an automobile mechanic. "I like to work on cars," he said, "and I am a pretty good auto mechanic. I ought to be able to get a job."

The job, he said, was of utmost importance, if he can get one. "I want to be able to help my mother in LaFayette, La. She's old and she needs my help now."

Outside the jail, however, ne made it plain that his first thoughts were of his wife, Mrs. Virgis Clark Spell, who has loyally stuck by him throughout the ordeal for them both. As soon as he reached the office of his attorney, Samuel E. Friedman, in Brideport, he asked for a telephone "to phone Virgis and tell her the news." Mrs. Spell met him in New York upon his arrival.

He said that he had been allowed to read no newspapers in jail and later said he "was not sorry" when told something of what the lurid accounts in the sensational papers had said about him and the case. He was allowed to get some mail and heard from Mrs. Spell and his mother in Louisiana, Mrs. Henrietta Spell.

"I felt from the beginning that the verdict would be 'not guilty,'" he said. "I knew I wasn't guilty and I felt they ought to see it that way."

Meanwhile, from a source entirely removed from the trial came a smashing condemnation of the conduct of Prosecutor Willis, who in addition to attempting to fan racial hatred against Spell, had told the jury that it should convict Spell because of the "shame" which an acquittal would bring upon the society woman who accused him.

In New York Robert Daru, chairman of the Committee of Judges, Prosecutors and Lawyers of the Criminal Courts Bar Association, said:

"It is improper to assert in argument that a verdict of guilty or not guilty has any implications beyond the guilt or innocence of the crime charged."

But in the home of her brother-in-law, Philip Strubing, in a wealthy Philadelphia suburb, where the Strubings gave a press interview, Mrs. Strubing was quoted as saying "Mr. Willis was just grand."

Mrs. Strubing said she hoped something would happen which would take Spell "off the streets so as to protect some other woman."

This was not the only lynch-inciting statement that came from Mrs. Strubing's wealthy neighbors. Telegrams from Ardmore and other Philadelphia suburbs flooded the offices of Governor Hurley over the week-end demanding that he "act" in some way to prevent Spell from going free in the face of the jury's verdict of not guilty.

The governor helped circulate this sentiment by quoting the telegrams to the newspapers, but today after Prosecutor Willis had made his last effort to "get Spell finally announced that he would not take any action.

FEB 4 1941

The National Association for the Advancement of colored people which defended Spell released a statement by him which said in part:

"Naturally I am very glad that it is all over. It has been a considerable strain but in my own mind I was sure that I would be acquitted. My plans for the immediate future are very uncertain. I haven't had an opportunity to talk with Virgus and I'm very tired.

"I will probably remain in New York until I have had an opportunity to rest and get myself together.

"I want to thank the N.A.A.C.P. for having retained counsel for me and helping Virgus since this trouble began. . ."

Birmingham, Ala. News
February 1, 1941

Jury Acquits Negro Accused Of Attack On Pretty Employer

However, Butler Still Behind Bars While New Action Studied

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (AP) —Joseph Spell, 31-year-old Negro butler accused of attacking his pretty, socially prmoinent employer, Mrs. Eleanor Strubing, of Greenwich, won an acquittal from a mixed jury that deliberated nearly 13 hours.

Urged by the state to convict and spare Mrs. Strubing "shame and disgrace" and asked by the defense to ignore the consequences to her if there was "reasonable" doubt of her story, the jury retired at 11:12 a.m. Friday. It reported its verdict six minutes before midnight.

Though acquitted, the short, stockily-built Spell remained behind bars. Prosecutor Lorin W. Willis, as soon as he heard the verdict, moved that Spell's bail of $15,000 be continued until the state determined "what course of action is to be pursued." The defense did not oppose the motion.

Philip Strubing, of Philadelphia, brother-in-law of Mrs. Strubing, was the only member of the family present at the verdict, although her husband, John K. Strubing, Jr., New York advertising man and former Princeton athlete, had remained until early in the evening.

The 32-year-old Mrs. Strubing herself was in court only for the day and a half she spent on the stand last week.

It was then that she told the jury of six women and six men her story—termed "fantastic" by the defense—of being accosted by Spell in her home the night of Dec. 10 as she emerged from a shower, of struggling at first and then being silenced and rendered helpless by Spell's threat to kill her and finally of being driven in her own car to a reservoir in North Castle, N. Y., where she said Spell hurled her into the water.

A truck driver found Mrs. Strubing at the reservoir's edge, hysterical, her clothing wet.

Spell, in her employ less than two months, was arrested that morning in the basement of the Strubing home.

Under the questioning of counsel provided by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Spell stolidly denied her version of the story. He insisted he went to her room only to ask for money to send his sick mother, that she gave it to him readily and "led me on," that he used no force upon her and that she went with him willingly to the reservoir where he let her out at her request and pleaded in vain with her to return home.

Mrs. Strubing's husband was away on a business trip at the time.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

NEGRO TELLS STORY IN STRUBING CASE

JAN 29 1941

He Insists That at No Time on Night of Alleged Assault Did He Use Force or Threats

From a Staff Correspondent

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Jan. 28—Joseph Spell, who is on trial in Superior Court on a charge of assaulting Mrs. John K. Strubing Jr. on Dec. 10, testified today that during the night of the alleged assault he at no time resorted to force or intimidation in his relations with her.

Spell, a Negro, who was employed by her as a chauffeur-butler, took the stand after the State had rested and contradicted Mrs. Strubing's testimony that he had bound and gagged her, thrown rocks at her and finally had pushed her into the Kensico Reservoir.

During cross-examination he was asked by State's Prosecutor Lorin Willis why in his first statement to the police on Dec. 11 he said he had not seen Mrs. Strubing the preceding night. He replied that they had promised one another that night not to divulge what had happened. He added that he changed his story to the police only when they told him they had spoken to Mrs. Strubing.

During the 2 hours and 47 minutes he was on the stand the defendant stood by his assertion that Mrs. Strubing left the car that she occupied with him near Kensico Reservoir and walked into the water. After pleading with her to return to the car, he said, he drove away.

JAN 29 1941

Spell further testified that he never ordered Mrs. Strubing to write a ransom note to her husband, as she had said, and that he never asked for or received from her any jewelry. He admitted that he asked her for thirty-five dollars on the night of Dec. 10 and that she gave him $6.50. He said later that he wanted the money to send to his mother for Christmas and insisted he had no other motive in going to Mrs. Strubing's room.

He also asserted that while he was with Mrs. Strubing her dog barked and she ordered it to be quiet and leave the room. Mrs. Strubing has testified that the dog was present while she struggled with Spell in the hall outside her room.

Another defense witness was Virgus Clark, who was hired by the Strubings with Spell when she told them she was his wife. She testified that she was ill and therefore did not sleep soundly the night of Dec. 10 but that she heard no screams.

Miss Clark also testified that she heard the dog dark and went downstairs and took it into her room, as was her custom. She said she believed at that time she was the only person in the house.

Before the State rested at 12:07 P. M., it presented five witnesses.

After court adjourned Samuel Friedman, defense counsel, told Judge Carl Foster he expected to rest his case tomorrow. It was believed that the State would call at least one rebuttal witness.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

POLICE BACK STORY OF MRS. STRUBING

Three Officers Testify That She Told Them She Was Assaulted by Her Negro Servant

POINTS RAISED BY DEFENSE

Issue Is Made on Testimony of Ransom Note and Alleged Gagging and Binding

JAN 25 1941

From a Staff Correspondent

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Jan. 24—Three policemen of North Castle, N. Y., bolstered by their testimony today the main theme of the story of Mrs. John K. Strubing Jr. that she was assaulted on Dec. 10 by her Negro servant, Joseph Spell, who is now being tried on that charge in Superior Court.

On cross-examination of the witnesses, the defense developed that in statements made in their presence on Dec. 11 Mrs. Strubing described incidents in a manner which was in apparent contradiction with remarks she included in her testimony here on Wednesday.

The policemen who spoke to Mrs. Strubing in the office of the first doctor to treat her, and in the hospital to which she was subsequently taken, testified that she told them that Spell assaulted her on the preceding night, that he threatened her with a knife, bound her, gagged her, and finally hurled rocks at her after throwing her into the Kensico Reservoir.

Questioned on Ransom Note

The first of the defense points was raised during the cross-examination of the first witness, Patrolman Chester Pietschker, who stated that Mrs. Strubing had told him in St. Agnes Hospital, White Plains, that a ransom note which she said she was forced to write to her husband was left by her on a desk in her home and she did not know what became of it.

In her testimony here, Mrs. Strubing said that Spell took the note and told her that he was going to put it in a letter box. The note has never been produced to date, and the defense has asked several witnesses if Mrs. Strubing told them that she had torn the note and thrown the pieces into a waste basket in her home.

During the same examination the defense attorney, Samuel Friedman, drew from the witness a statement that Mrs. Strubing told him that she had no gag in her mouth on the night of the alleged assault when a police car drew up beside the automobile in which she was alleged to have been held by Spell and ordered the Negro to drive the parked vehicle away.

Mrs. Strubing has testified that she did not know whether she was gagged. While she was being cross-examined an attempt was made to prove that if the gag was not in her mouth she could have made an outcry, and therefore she should have been able to recall that incident.

Says She Criticized the Police

A second witness of today, Sergeant John C. Hergenham, testified that Mrs. Strubing said in the doctor's office, while she was being treated:

"The policemen could have saved me. Why didn't they look in the car."

The other apparent difference with Mrs. Strubing's testimony was the statement by Patrolman Pietschker that she told him she was frequently left alone in a room at her home by Spell and was free to move.

She has contended that, while Spell did leave her presence, she was tied up on those occasions.

Since no trials are held in this State on Mondays, the trial was adjourned until Tuesday. Court was adjourned an hour earlier today to allow jurors to get home before the heavy snowfall made driving hazardous.

NEGRO ACQUITTED IN STRUBING CASE

Times

Connecticut Jury Finds for Spell, Butler-Chauffeur Accused of Assault

DELIBERATED 11 HOURS

First Heard Judge's Charge Calling Principal Stories 'Directly Contradictory'

FEB 1 1941

From a Staff Correspondent

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Jan. 31—After deliberating almost eleven hours, a Superior Court jury acquitted Joseph Spell of the charge of assaulting Mrs. John K. Strubing Jr. of Greenwich on the night of Dec. 10. The verdict was announced at 11:55 P. M.

A little after 11 the jury had asked the court for the testimony given by Sergeant John J. Teufel of the Greenwich police, when he was called by the defense. For the next half-hour the testimony was read to the jurors by the court stenographer. The jury then retired.

At Judge Foster's suggestion the jury had a recess for lunch between 1 and 2 o'clock, and at 4:30 there was a brief interruption to allow one of the jurors to send a personal message through Judge Foster.

Two and a half hours later the judge declared a recess for dinner. The jurors returned a little after 8 o'clock and two hours later they were still deliberating.

In his charge to the jury, which he read from 10:05 to 11:12 A. M., the judge explained the law of Connecticut governing the crime of which the 31-year-old defendant is accused, and summarized the evidence presented by each side. He reminded the jurors that the defendant was presumed to be innocent until that presumption was overcome by the prosecution's evidence beyond a reasonable doubt.

In speaking of the testimony offered by Mrs. Strubing and the defendant, the judge said he was aware that their stories were "directly contradictory." He stated that since the accuser and the accused were the only eyewitnesses to the alleged assault, the jurors were to consider carefully the circumstantial evidence in the case. Circumstantial evidence, he said, could be as truthful and important as the accounts of eyewitnesses.

In finishing his charge, Judge Foster said:

"Here are two versions of events that are directly contradictory. The State offers us evidence it claims corroborates Mrs. Strubing's testimony. The accused has presented evidence which the defense claims supports his testimony. It is for you to determine which of these two persons is telling the truth.

"You may give such weight as they deserve to the natural instincts of human kind and to the natural abhorrences of human kind."

NO RACE MEN ON SPELL JURY

Courier

FEB 1 1941

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Jan. 30 — Solely on the ground that he had at one time been a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Robert A. Thompson, on Wednesday, was excluded from the jury panel sitting in the trial of Joseph Spell, 31-year-old chauffeur and butler, whose white socialite employer, Mrs. John K. Strubing Jr., charges that he raped her three times on the night of last December 10.

TWO RACE MEN ON PANEL; NONE ON JURY

Pittsburgh Courier

Thompson, an employee in a local shoe shining and hat cleaning establishment, was one of two Negro prospective jurors examined by the State and the defense, from a list of 33 persons, during the past two days. Both Negroes were excluded. The Rev. James W. Watson was rejected Tuesday, January 22, by State's Attorney Lorin W. Willis, after the minister had answered "No" in response to Willis's question, asking him if he would "be embarrassed" by serving as a juror in the case.

Thompson was excluded by Judge Carl Foster after he answered the question by State's Attorney Willis, as to whether he was a member of the N.A.A.C.P., by stating that although he was not a member of the association at the present time, he had been a member a few years ago.

Willis then pointed to Thurgood Marshall, N.A.A.C.P. attorney, associated with Friedman in the case, who was seated at the counsel table, saying that the N.A.A.C.P., was interested in the defense of the case, and for that reason Thompson should be barred from serving.

DEFENSE LAWYER NOTES EXCEPTION

Protesting vigorously, Friedman pointed out that to bar Thompson on such a ground would, in effect, bar practically all Negroes in New England, because of the association's large membership in this area.

Judge Foster, after hearing both sides, said: "If this man is not chosen, no harm will be done; if he is chosen harm might be done." He then excused Thompson. Friedman immediately asked the jury to step out of the room, when Friedman insisted that this request constituted a mistrial. The court reprimanded the prosecutor, but refused to allow the trial to stop.

LAWYER ACCUSED OF "TORTURING, BADGERING"

Mrs. Strubing appeared in court Wednesday for the first time, accompanied by a uniformed nurse, her private attorney, Michael Bradley, prominent Connecticut politician; her brother, and her husband. She went through a lengthy examination at the hands of Mr. Friedman.

Obviously angered at the manner in which defense counsel was puncturing the story told by the wealthy society woman, whose husband sat in court watching her intently, Willis asked the court to advise Friedman about "torturing and badgering" the witness. Judge Foster immediately asked the jury to step out of the room, when Friedman insisted that this request constituted a mistrial. The court reprimanded the prosecutor, but refused to allow the trial to stop.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

ATTACKED IN HOME, MRS. STRUBING SAYS

She Tells Jury at Bridgeport That Butler-Chauffeur Assaulted and Abducted Her

HUSBAND ALSO A WITNESS

Trial of Negro Servant Started After Jury, Including Six Women, Is Completed

JAN 2 31941

From a Staff Correspondent
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Jan. 22—Mrs. John K. Strubing Jr. testified here today that she was assaulted and abducted from her home on the night of Dec. 10 by Joseph Spell, who was then her butler-chauffeur and who is now on trial in Superior Court for the alleged crime.

During her two hours of testimony Mrs. Strubing had to be questioned frequently by State Attorney Lorin Willis as she testified that she had feared death at the hands of the Negro defendant. Although her memory seemed to fail her repeatedly, she said she recalled that her alleged assailant had tied her, gagged her, wielded a knife, thrown rocks at her, and forced her to write a kidnapping note demanding $5,000 from her husband, an advertising man who was in Cincinnati at the time.

Before her testimony ended she had also accused the 31-year-old defendant of driving her for hours in the night in her own and in his car. For the most part, she said, she did not know where she was being taken.

Husband on Witness Stand

The 33-year-old woman was found at daybreak on Dec. 11 on Route 12, near the Kensico reservoir, ranched and hysterical. Spell was arrested that night.

Other witnesses who testified before Judge Carl Foster and a jury, which includes six women, of whom five are married, were Mr. Strubing, a former Princeton athlete, and Carlton W. Hubbard, an architect, who prepared a plan of one of the floors of the Strubing colonial home at Round Hill Road, Greenwich. Selection of the jury was completed earlier today.

Mr. Strubing, who was on the stand only sixteen minutes, testified that he had hired Spell in November, four months after the couple had moved to their home.

While Mrs. Strubing admitted at times that she could not recall the sequence of events on the night of the alleged crime, she said that she was confronted on that night by Spell in her bedroom soon after she had taken a shower bath. He demanded money at first, she said. She agreed to give him the money and then, she testified, she offered him jewelry.

When he made advances she ordered him from the room and, she added, pleaded and finally struggled with him while she cried vainly for help.

Forced to Write Note, She Says

Later, according to the witness, she was ordered to dress, write the ransom note and then was bound and gagged and put in a car. Spell then took the wheel and drove the automobile.

Once, she said, while the auto was parked in a lonely section, a car drew up alongside and two men, whom she believed were policemen, ordered the Negro to continue driving.

After some time, she did not know how long, she was brought back to her home, she stated, adding that Spell released the bonds around her ankles and pushed and pulled her back into her house.

For a while she was forced to sit in a chair in the darkened cellar of her home, she added, and then was bound once more and placed in Spell's automobile. For a long time they drove in the car, she testified.

It was during this drive that Spell said he was lost, she testified. She said that she pleaded with him to untie her and that he did. Some time later he stopped the car and stepped out, and as he did so she slipped out of the door on the other side, the witness stated. She was grabbed from behind, she said, and thrown over a fence. She testified that Shell then pushed her into water. Whether he tried to push her into deep water or whether she tried to escape from him by swimming, she did not recall, she said.

It was while she was in the water trying to remove her coat, that he threw rocks at her, she stated. Traffic was getting heavier on a near-by road and he drove off in the car, she went on. Later she was found by two truck drivers, she told the jury.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

DOCTOR AIDS STORY OF MRS. STRUBING

He Tells Bridgeport Court His Examination Convinced Him She Had Been Assaulted

JAN 2 41941

From a Staff Correspondent

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Jan. 2—The doctor who examined and treated Mrs. John K. Strubing Jr. soon after she was found wandering near Kensico Reservoir on Dec. 11 testified in Superior Court here today in support of her story that she had been assaulted on the night of Dec. 10 by her Negro servant, Joseph Spell, who is now being tried on that charge.

The witness, Dr. Francis G. Zeier of White Plains, quoted Mrs. Strubing as exclaiming hysterically in his office that she was "happy to be alive," and as having told him that her employe had "gone berserk with a knife" and had attacked her. He testified that a physical examination of Mrs. Strubing at that time led him to believe that she was telling the truth.

He supported Mrs. Strubing's testimony in other respects. He stated that there was a welt on her body and that her lips were irritated. The State has contended that Spell drew a gag across Mrs. Strubing's mouth. He also testified that contusions had developed on her wrists. The prosecution has alleged that the defendant bound Mrs. Strubing's wrists.

Says She Needed Sedatives

While she was in his office, Dr. Zeier said Mrs. Strubing urged the police to find Spell lest he kill his wife, who lived in her Greenwich home, and her dog. She was also worried about how her husband and mother would react when they heard what had happened to her, he testified.

He said that then he first saw Mrs. Strubing she was weeping and so hysterical that he had to give her sedatives. She was suffering from exposure and numerous bruises on her body and legs. While he treated her, she said that she had "been through a frightful night," he stated.

Before the doctor went on the stand Mrs. Strubing was cross-examined for four hours by Samuel Friedman, one of the defense attorneys. In his examination the lawyer sought to emphasize her testimony that during her struggle with the defendant in her home he was wearing thick driving gloves all of the time.

Questioned on Ransom Note

During her examination she said that she did not know what had become of the ransom note demanding $5,000 that she had testified Spell forced her to write. She said that she did not recall having told police that she had torn it up and thrown the pieces in a waste basket in her home. She admitted that the jewelry, which she said she gave Spell, was in her home, and said that she did not know how it had been returned.

Another witness, James Restel, a truck driver, who was the first person to speak to Mrs. Strubing after the experience on the night of Dec. 10, testified that she waved him to a stop and told him she was being followed by a Negro. He said he looked around but could find no one. He described Mrs. Strubing as hysterical at the time.

The only other witness was Douglas Hurst, who testified that he found Mrs. Strubing's fur coat in Kensico Reservoir. She has testified that she was pushed into the reservoir by Spell.

The trial will continue tomorrow and the State is expected to rest during the day.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Draw Jury in Negro Butler 'Rape' Trial

Prosecution Shows Bitter Hostility Toward Accused Man

JAN 22 1941

By Ernest Moorer
(Daily Worker Staff Correspondent)

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Jan. 21.—Ten jurors, five men and five women, who will try Joseph Spell, 31-year-old Negro chauffeur on the "rape" charge of his wealthy former employer, Mrs. John K. Strubing, Jr., of Greenwich had been chosen tonight as the first day of the trial ended in Superior Court here. The remaining two jurors will be chosen when the court reconvenes tomorrow at 10 A.M.

Outstanding events of the first day of the trial were these:

1. The extremely hostile manner of State's Attorney Lorin W. Willis who, in questioning prospective jurors, almost invariably referred to the defendant as "this Negro Joseph Spell who sits there by the Sheriff," and pointing with his finger as he did so.

2. Exclusion of all spectators except a select half-dozen by Judge Carl Foster. JAN 22 1941

3. Exhaustive questioning by defense attorney Samuel E. Friedman of Bridgeport of each prospective juror in an effort to uncover any anti-negro prejudice which would result in the selection of jurors hostile to Spell.

On this latter point the first clash between opposing attorneys occurred, first, when prosecutor Willis strenuously objected to the following significant question by attorney Friedman:

"Where rape is charged it must be shown that there was, beyond a reasonable doubt, real and honest resistance on the part of the woman, would you give this defendant the benefit of that doubt?"

Judge Foster overruled Willis' objection, and ordered the prospective juror, Mrs. Helen M. Ireland of Bridgeport, to answer the question.

Her answer was: "Yes." Mrs. Ireland was excused (rejected as a juror by the prosecution.

SECOND TILT

A second verbal tilt occurred over the following question, also asked by Friedman:

"Do you have any fixed opinion that a white woman and a negro man could not have voluntary sex relations."

Prosecutor Willis argued that the question was one of "moral principles" and not prejudice, Judge Foster again overruled him and ordered the prospective juror, Lester C. Gilman, to answer.

The answer was "No." After lengthy questioning by both Willis and Friedman, Gilman, a Norwalk salesman, was seated and became the first juror.

The jury panel from which the jurors are being drawn consists of 32 persons from Fairfield County, two of whom are Negroes, The Rev. James W. Watson, Methodist, was given the briefest questioning by prosecutor Willis and then summarily rejected. In questioning the Negro minister, the prosecutor, whose usual manner is unusually gruff, adopted a condescending tone, asking him if he would not "be embarrassed" by serving as a juror in the case.

"I would not," Mr. Watson replied firmly. Nevertheless, the prosecutor used one of his eight allowed summary challenges to disqualify the only Negro questioned during the day.

The unusual "precautions" which featured the opening of the trial apparently surprised even old timers around the Bridgeport Courthouse. All photographers were excluded not only from the courtroom but from the entire building.

An hour before the trial began a dozen or more officers from the Sheriff's office were patrolling the corridors warning reporters to "be sure to get a pass from the Sheriff." No out of town press cards would be recognized, they said. There was no difficulty, however, in getting the local pass.

PRESS THREATENED

As court opened, a Sheriff's officer reminded every reporter that they would be promptly ejected "if we catch any body making sketches" in the court room.

In spite of all these precautions, obviously intended to spare the wealthy accuser, Mrs. Strubing of any "embarrassment," Spell's social registerite accuser failed to attend the opening session. Her husband, however, John K. Strubing, Jr., sat for a few hours during the morning with his brother, Philip, in the courtroom, but left before the noon recess.

Spell was brought into the courtroom as soon as Judge Foster had made his formal ruling on excluding spectators.

But seated in the courtroom throughout the day was Spell's attractive wife, who listened attentively throughout the lengthy and often tedious process of questioning 24 of the 32 veniremen.

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The Daily Worker
New York. N. Y.

Experts Uphold Defense In Spell 'Rape' Case

Specialists Testify That Alleged Injuries Were Not Necessarily Due to Force; Court Rules Out Most of Testimony by Doctors

JAN 30 1941

By Ernest Moorer
(Daily Worker Staff Correspondent)

JAN 30 1941

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Jan. 29.—The testimony of the only physician who backed Mrs. John K. Strubing's "rape" charge against her former chauffeur, Joseph Spell, was exploded in Spell's trial here today when four physicians, three of whom were prominent gynecologists, declared that her alleged "internal injuries" could have been caused by a completely voluntary relationship between the young socialite and her servant.

The testimony of the four doctors was won under extreme difficulty by defense attorney Samuel E. Friedman after Superior Court Judge Carl Foster overruled 21 of 24 questions, which, Friedman contended, would have established beyond doubt that medical evidence would have substantiated an entirely voluntary relationship between Spell and Mrs. Strubing.

A conviction upon the charge of rape, Friedman had pointed out, must include proof by the prosecution that "force and violence" was used. The testimony of the medical experts was offered to erase the possibility of this necessary condition for a rape conviction.

FIGHTS REJECTION

Friedman objected strenuously to the rejection of the 21 questions. He had placed on the stand Dr. Estella Strayer, 38, graduate of Columbia University School of Physicians and Surgeons and for five and a half years a specialist in gynecology.

Recalling the testimony of Dr. Francis G. Zeier, who testified against Spell and who has been retained since Dec. 11 as Mrs. Strubing's physician, Friedman recalled the internal "injuries" Zeier said Mrs. Strubing had received. He then asked Dr. Strayer if these same injuries might be cause by "voluntary intercourse."

State's attorney Willis objected on the ground that the question was based on "supposition." The jury was ordered from the room by Judge Foster while the opposing lawyers battled over the point.

"Our whole defense," Friedman said, "is that the intercourse between these two was voluntary. I think we should be allowed to offer evidence that it was." He reminded Judge Foster that Mrs. Strubing's "injuries" had been described in the utmost detail by Dr. Zeier on the witness stand and furthermore that the prosecution would have ample opportunity to cross-examine the witnesses he was now attempting to question.

PERMITS 3 QUESTIONS

Judge Foster ruled out this question. He then required Friedman to submit all of his questions in advance to the witness in the absence of the jury and Judge Foster ruled upon them as they were asked. After asking the 24 questions, Judge Foster allowed three to stand. Friedman noted exceptions to the rejection of each of the 21 and an additional general exception to the whole procedure of restricting drastically the expert testimony.

Of the three questions left, one was utterly meaningless when left alone. It read: "What is an abrasion and how are they caused?"

One question which was excluded related to a standard medical text book on obstetrics, Dr. J. Clifton Edgar's "The Practice of Obstetrics." The Judge had allowed Dr. Strayer to assert that she was familiar with the text. Friedman then asked her if she remembered a section which read "the best authorities agree that a mature woman cannot be raped by a single man, unassisted." Judge Foster excluded her answer.

The questions which the Judge allowed to stand were general in nature, but were sufficiently clear to permit Friedman to win the important assertion from all four doctors that a voluntary intercourse may have cause the alleged injuries.

EXPERTS UPHOLD DEFENSE

The most important question left, and which Friedman was permitted to read to the witnesses after Willis quarreled over the precise wording, contained an exact description of Mrs. Strubing and one of Spell. Friedman asked: "If a woman who had been married seven years, weighing 120 pounds, and a man weighing 160 pounds had relations and these relations resulted in injuries to (here a detailed list of the internal injuries allegedly suffered was inserted) in your opinion would that have indicated that the woman had been the victim of a forceful attack?"

The doctor's answer was a firm "No."

Dr. Strayer was followed to the stand by Dr. Olga Little, resident gynecologist at Bradley Home, a Bridgeport hospital; by Dr. Joseph Howard, graduate of Georgetown University Medical School and of two years of specialized study in Europe and who is now attending obstetrician at St. Vincent's Hospital here, and by Dr. Daniel P. Griffin, for 17 years a prominent psychiatrist. All answered the identical question in the negative.

As each testified Friedman noted for the court's record that he had intended to ask all of them the 21 questions that Judge Foster ruled out for Dr. Stayer and upon the Judge's ruling that his objections would stand in all cases, Friedman asked that his exceptions be noted as if the questions had been asked and objected to individually.

CASTS DOUBT ON STORY

In addition to the testimony that the injuries might have resulted from purely voluntary intercourse, Dr. Griffin, the psychiatrist, offered other testimony which damaged Mrs. Strubing's hesitant, sobbing and forgetful account of what happened on the night of Dec. 10.

Dr. Griffin said that if Mrs. Strubing had had an experience which terrified her as much as she claimed it did, it might have produced two reactions: She would have had the important events fixed even more clearly upon her memory than is normal or she would have suffered a temporary amnesia which would have left her mentally blank about the night's occurrences. Mrs. Strubing, her testimony showed, suffered neither of these reactions. She remembered some things clearly, while many important events she admitted she could not recall or was "confused about."

ANTI-NEGRO VENOM

A snarling attempt to raise an anti-Negro hysteria against Spell was made by State's Attorney Willis when he tried to break down Dr. Strayer's assertion that she saw no evidence of "resistance" to Spell in the testimony. Willis asked if a white woman might "cease to resist" after "come big Negro's hands gouged into her throat and choked her until the breath went out of her." Willis intoned the words in a thundering monotone, lingering on each one for the utmost effect, but it did not shake the woman doctor's resolution that she would require more proof of "resistance" than the evidence showed.

The first witness to testify today was Greenwich Police Sergeant John J. Teuffel, who conducted the original investigation when Spell was arrested. He testified that he went to the Strubing home to look for a "ransom note" which Mrs. Strubing testified she wrote and either tore to bits and left in the waste basket in the living room or upon the desk in that room. Teuffel said he was never able to find any note.

The defense rested its case at the conclusion of the day's testimony.

Arguments to the jury will be made tomorrow, first by the prosecution and then by the defense with an hour and a half allowed to the opening argument on both sides.

Judge Foster said he would charge the jury Friday morning and the case will probably reach the jury that afternoon.

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The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Mrs. Strubing Invited Intimacy, Spell Tells Jury; Denies Attacking Her

JAN 29 1941

By Ernest Moorer
(Daily Worker Staff Correspondent)

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Jan. 28.—Joseph Spell took the witness stand for the first time to answer the "rape" charge of his rich and socially prominent accuser today, denying every allegation against him and relating how he was waiting quietly at his employer's home when police came to arrest him on the morning of Dec. 11 in Greenwich, Conn.

Earlier in the day this assertion by Spell was fully supported by the two Greenwich police officers who arrested him. Patrolman Francis McGinty and Sergent Robert H Fitzroy said that Spell was waiting in the laundry basement room of the home of Mrs. John K. Strubing, Jr., when they arrested him. Spell, they both said, made not the slightest effort to escape in spite of the fact that he had been there for half and hour or more.

At this moment, the two policemen said, Spell's car was in the Strubing garage only a few yards away.

STRAIGHFORWARD STORY

Spell was called to the witness stand by Defense Attorney Samuel E. Friedman almost immediately after the State's Attorney Lorin W. Willis rested the prosecutor's case late in the morning session.

His answers were in striking contrast to the halting, forgetful story told by his accuser, Mrs. Strubing, last Tuesday. Spell told a direct and straightforward story without hesitation. He spoke sometimes in low tones and had to be reminded occasionally by Attorney Friedman to keep his voice up, but he answered without hesitation and gave a coherent story of what happened on the night and morning of the alleged "crime."

In brief his story was that Mrs Strubing had suddenly invited his attention after he came to her room in the evening to enquire about a loan in advance on his salary.

Spell had testified that he had played cards early in the evening and that he returned to the Strubing home around 10 P. M. Defense Attorney Friedman was questioning him.

DESCRIBES INVITATION

Q. When you arrived at home what did you do?

A. I went to her (Mrs. Strubing's room) and knocked on the door.

Q. What did you say?

A. I said I wanted to speak to her about some money. I wanted to get a loan.

Q. What did she say?

A. She said for me to wait at the door.

Q.—Did you wait at the door?

A.—I did.

The next few questions developed the fact that she came out into the bedroom from the bathroom with a bathrobe about her, got $6.50 and gave it to Spell with the remark, according to Spell, that "you know, Joseph, I think a lot of you; you can have anything you want, you know."

Asked what he did when this remark was made, Spell said, "I thanked her." He said that he thought at first that the remark implied only appreciation for his work as chauffeur and houseman.

By then, he said, she was standing very near him and her next remark left no doubt in his mind that she was inviting attention.

At one point Attorney Friedman asked:

Q. Did you ever tie her up?
A. No, sir.
Q. Did you ever use any force?
A. I did not have to.

MRS. SPELL TESTIFIES

A sharp conflict with Mrs. Strubing's testimony of last week appeared. Spell declared that no sexual act was consummated at this time because Mrs. Strubing expressed fear of awakening Spell's wife, Mrs. Virgis Clark Spell, and at Mrs. Strubing's suggestion they dressed and went downstairs from the bedroom. Mrs. Strubing had testified that it was at this time that she was "attacked."

At another point Friedman asked Spell:

"Did Mrs. Strubing at a time put up a struggle against ou?"

"She had no reason to," Spell replied.

Q. Did she make any outcry?

A. No, sir.

Later today Mrs. Spell, the accused man's wife who lived with him at the Strubing home, testified that she was sleeping in the room directly above the bedroom where Mrs. Strubing charges she was "attacked" and that she heard no outcry of any kind.

She was sure, she said, that she would have heard an outcry if any had been made for two reasons: First, because she was unwell and was sleeping lightly; secondly, because she was awakened at one time when Mrs. Strubing's dog barked, which she offered as additional proof that she was not sleeping soundly and would have heard any unusual noises in the house.

Mrs. Spell's testimony was striking because of her clear, strong voice and the simple clarity of her answers. State's Attorney Willis bombarded her with questions designed to make her admit that she had taken some sort of sleeping potion the night before, and others intended to insinuate that she was merely shielding the man she has loved since they were childhood sweethearts in LaFayette, La., 25 years ago. Never once did she waver from her story.

DROP 'CONFESSION'

Perhaps the most startling development of the day came when the prosecution rested its case without producing what was once referred to as "confession" which had been won from Spell after 15 hours of grilling by Greenwich police and FBI men.

After Spell had told his story in court, attorney Friedman asked him if he had given the Greenwich prosecutor any statement. Spell answered frankly that he had.

"And was it not the same story you told here in court today?" Friedman asked.

"Yes," Spell answered.

The only inference that could be drawn was indeed that Spell's statement had corresponded to his story today and that it would have had no value in court as a prosecution exhibit or it certainly would have been introduced by Willis whose other exhibits include such things as an empty package of cigarettes and an unidentified piece of string which a policeman said he picked up by the roadside.

Spell testified that he had had sexual relations with Mrs. Strubing only once and that was in her car while it was parked in the Strubing garage. He said that they then went for a ride in his car and that this ride concluded when Mrs. Strubing asked to be let out of the car near the Kensico Reservoir about 2 or 2:30 A. M. the following morning.

CONTRADICTS MRS. STRUBING

All of these incidents were in sharp conflict with the story Mrs. Strubing told. She had said that they went for two rides, first in her Mercury sport sedan and then in Spell's car. She had said that she was "bound and gagged" for a part of the time, a point which was emphatically denied by Spell who said time and time again that there was never any suggestion of force during the entire evening.

He said that he let her out at the Kensico Reservoir because she asked him to. To his surprise, he said she ran toward the water and called to him to "go on home."

He said that he tried to argue with her and to persuade her to come back to the car, but that he did not go toward her because he said that she was not reasonable and he was afraid "she might hurt herself."

He said that he then drove to a place in White Plains called Todd's Place where he saw some friends. This was an interesting assertion because during its turn in the case the prosecution had not given the slightest indication that Spell had gone anywhere after the reservoir, which was represented by Mrs. Strubing as having occurred at least three hours after Spell's account fixed the time.

CAN'T SHAKE SPELL'S STORY

But when Spell mentioned Todd's Place it then became apparent that the prosecution did know that Spell had spent some time there and had in fact an affidavit from some person there which told of several hands of "blackjack" that Spell played while there. Prosecutor Willis kept referring to this paper while cross questioning Spell.

The cross questioning was marked by heavy-handed insinuations from Prosecutor Willis.

"Did you not think, in fact," he asked Spell, "that Mrs. Strubing's body was floating in Kensico Lake?"

"I did not," Spell answered firmly. "When I left her there she was standing in the edge of the water."

At no time was Willis able to shake Spell on an important point.

Other witnesses today, in addition to Spell and Mrs. Spell, was incidental. They included the nurse who had cared for Mrs. Strubing and who is still retained by the Strubing family, three policemen from Greenwich and one from Stamford who said he came upon a car parked that night which might have been Spell's He was unable even to positively identify Spell.

The defense was expected to conclude its case tomorrow with arguments to the jury to occupy Thursday's session.

37h-1941 D. C. 6708

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Juries Decree Death for 2 In Attacks On D.C. Girls

Robinson, Williams Swiftly Condemned; Government Official's Daughter Testifies

Two men who raped young girls in Washington in the last six weeks were tried and condemned to death in a few hours yesterday.

Two juries in the District Court added to their verdicts the words "with the death penalty" which automatically send the men to the electric chair.

Those condemned were:

William Isaac Robinson, 34, Negro, convicted of ravising the 15-year-old daughter of a Government official in Rock Creek Park on August 6.

Bernard Lee Williams, 21, Negro, convicted of ravising a 17-year-old Negro girl on August 2 after beating her and her boy friend in the head with a half brick.

Meanwhile, three white men were arrested in connection with two alleged rapes in Prince Georges County. The arrests took place within a 24-hour period yesterday.

Delay Refused

Attorney David A. Hart, who was appointed by the court to see that Robinson had a fair trial, asked for delay when the case was called yesterday morning. Justice Daniel W. O'Donoghue refused and proceeded to selection of a jury which was completed in 35 minutes.

Called to the witness stand first was the victim, wearing a simple wash dress, low heeled sport shoes and no cosmetics. She told her story in a clear, firm voice, without hesitation or uncertainty.

The girl said she left summer school about 10:30 on August 6 and got off a bus at Sixteenth Street and Rock Creek Ford Road.

"I was walking along whistling," she continued, "when Mr. Robinson came up to me. He caught me by my throat, hard. I screamed as loud as I could, but he kept on choking me. Then I couldn't scream any more. He told me if I did he was going to kill me.

"He carried me off to the right, toward Sixteenth Street. He was dragging me by my throat. Then he threw me down on the gravel."

Tied and Gagged Her

The child said Robinson the assaulted her. Warning her not to tell what happened, he gagged her with her clothes, tied her hands and legs and left her.

A few minutes later he returned and repeated the outrage.

When the girl got her feet loose she ran to the riding academy, holding her clothes in front of her.

Robinson was caught two days later and the girl identified him the next day from eight men in a line-up at Police Headquarters.

Three times the victim told the jurors:

"I am positive, absolutely positive, that Mr. Robinson is the man."

Said He Was Man

Asked how she knew, she replied: "Well, he looks like the man. He talks like the man. He walks like the man. And besides that, I heard him say he was the man."

The girl's father also said he heard Robinson admit the crime the day after the victim identified him.

Acting District Attorney John W. Fihelly rested the Government's case after presenting only a dozen of the 38 witnesses he had summoned. These included Dr. John E. Fenton, Gallinger Hospital, who described the child's bruised neck, eyes bloodshot from choking, and other wounds. Fihelly did not offer Robinson's signed confession in evidence.

Testifying for himself, Robinson admitted that he served ten years in a West Virginia prison for raping a 9-year-old girl. But he denied the crime here. It was true, he said, that he confessed to the police, but his confession was false. He did not renew his previous claim that the confession was forced from him by brutality.

Alibi Breaks Down

Robinson attempted an alibi defense, but the witnesses he called failed to confirm his account of having been with them about the time of the rape.

Although both prosecution and defense were willing to have the jurors consider the whole indictment, which charged two instances of rape and two of carnal knowledge, Justice O'Donoghue ordered the jurors to confine themselves to the carnal knowledge counts. In law, carnal knowledge is a sex crime against a girl under 16, whether or not by force.

After 55 minutes of deliberation, the jurors found a verdict of guilty on both counts, with the death penalty on each. Justice O'Donoghue then ordered that "not guilty" verdict be found on the rape charges.

Meanwhile, Williams came to trial before Federal Judge Thomas B. Kennedy, of Cheyenne, Wyo., here on "loan" duty. On the jury were ten white men and two Negroes. Because he had no lawyer, the court had named Saul Lichtenberg to defend him.

Against him appeared a 17-year-old girl who said that on the night of August 1 she and her boy friend were in a car in a woods at Fifty-third and Fitch Streets Southeast.

Knocked Boy Out

The girl said Williams struck her boy friend on the head with a half brick and knocked him out. Then, she said, Williams hit her on the head with a brick and ravished her. She was positive of her identification, saying she could see Williams by the dash lights of the car.

Found near the scene was a blue cap which Williams later admitted was his. He denied the rape, and said he was peeping at the couple when the boy friend challenged him and they fought.

Prosecutor Allen J. Krouse branded the crime vicious and called for the death penalty.

The jury deliberated exactly an hour in reaching the verdict.

The men are due to be sentenced Friday. They are entitled to take their sentences to the United States Court of Appeals here for review. If they lose there, they might go to the Supreme Court.

Three Men Held

Dahlma Vincen Williams, 35, of Takoma Park, Md., and Byrd Mitchell, 22, of 4425 Fourteenth Street Northwest, aer being held without bond in the Hyattsville jail on charges of rape. Both men are bus drivers.

Corp. Lewis Mackall of t he county police said yesterday the two men are accused of attacking a 40-year-old woman early Sunday on the Colesville Road near University Lane.

According to the story told police, the woman met the two men at a tavern on University Lane and accepted their offer of a ride home. Instead of taking her home both men attacked her, she said.

The men will be given a preliminary hearing Thursday morning in Hyattsville police court before Judge Alan Bowie.

Alfred Aquilino 28, of 1017 B Street Southeast is being held on an open charge by District police. A warrant charging Aquilino with the rape of a 23-year-old woman of Tenth Street Southeast, was issued yesterday by Justice of the Peace George Phillips, of Berwyn.

Found on Highway

According to Officer Ed Cissell, of the county police, the woman claims Aquilino attacked her several times in a parked automobile on the Defense Highway near Lanham Sunday. The woman was found wandering along the highway in an hysterical condition by Fred Schenck, of Glenndale, a passing motorist.

Aquilino will be given a preliminary hearing in District police court tomorrow morning.

The jurors impaneled to try Robinson were James N. Allred, 53, bookkeeper, 4417 Burlington Place Northwest; Taylor H. Amiss, 36, construction company manager, 2710 Cathedral Avenue Northwest; Joseph C. Bacher, 46, furniture manufacturer, 1723 Irving Street Northwest; John W. Beckwith, 36, Social Security official, 2104 Huidekoper Place Northwest.

Also Earl W. Nunnally, 30, motor company official, 1816 Kalorama Road Northwest; Walter W. Roach, 59, finance company secretary, 1509 Sixteenth Street Northwest; Frank P. Crawford, 52, railroad accountant, 1327 Valley Place Southeast; Jacob Sperber, 60, realty salesman, 3840 Calvert Street Northwest.

Also Harry Gelfand, 52, tobacco dealer, 7523 Twelfth Street Northwest; Wilbert I. Yates, 29, salesman, 1204 M Street Northwest; Thomas N. Armel, 47, War Department employe, 1253 F Street Northwest; Clifford G. Needham, 30, insurance manager, 1000 Twenty-second Street Northwest.

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37h-1941
The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Chauffeur May Have Served 5 Yrs. While Innocent

Second Negro Allegedly 'Confessed' to Crime After First Was Sentenced

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 2—Police revealed today that James Matthew Smith, 41-year-old Negro, has served five years of a life sentence for a murder that another Negro, Jarvis Roosevelt Catoe, allegedly "confessed" with the vicious and brutal record of the Washington police toward Negroes in general in mind, observers believe that both men may be innocent of all murders involved in the two cases.

SEP 3 1941

Catoe's alleged confession of killing of eight women, five Negro and three white, includes the supposed murders of Florence Danoy, Negro, on April 12, 1935. Smith, a chauffeur, was immediately convicted after the Dancy murder and sentenced to life imprisonment, despite a persistent plea of innocence.

The National Negro Congress, here, is still investigating the alleged confession of Catoe. Recent provocative actions by the Washington police, including the killing of five innocent Negroes and the beating and intimidation of many others, has made many groups suspicious of the alleged confession which was produced by the police after an all-day grilling.

The Citizens Committee Against Police Brutality in Washington has pointed to the corruption and incompetence of the Washington police force which forced Chief Major Ernest Brown to resign and a general shake-up in the police department.

SEP 3 1941

The Negro population of Washington has been systematically terrorized because of the unpalatable record of the police and inability to solve several murders.

SENT TO ASYLUM

Progressive citizens here are incensed at the corruption of justice which forced one Negro to be persecuted for the alleged crime of another, who, as yet has not been convicted.

While in prison, Smith protested his innocence so persistently that the authorities disgracefully transferred him to a local insane asylum for observation. When released, he was committed to Leavenworth.

Officials disclosed that as a result of Catoe's latest alleged confession, Smith may be set free. However, Smith had not been notified because they did not want to arouse "false hopes."

Catoe was indicated today for the alleged killing of Jessie Elizabeth Strieff, W[illegible] Department clerk. Other women supposedly murdered by Catoe were Mattie Steward, Josephine Robinson, Lucy Kidwell, Ada Puller, Florence Dancy, Evelyn Anderson and Rose Abramowitz.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Jury Decrees Death for Youth Who Attacked Girl

OCT 10 1941

After deliberating 45 minutes, a District Court jury last night decreed Roland J. Lindsey, 19, Negro, must die for attacking an 18-year-old girl and assaulting her soldier escort July 19.

After District Attorney Edward M. Curran had closed the Government's case with a plea for the death penalty the jury retired at 4:45 p. m. At 5:30 p. m. the 12 men, including a Negro, filed back into the courtroom to report their verdict—guilty as indicted, with a mandatory death penalty.

The verdict closed four days of trial in which defense attorneys claimed Lindsey was feeble-minded and not responsible for his acts July 19 in Patterson Woods Northeast.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Jury May Get Confession of Catoe Today

OCT 21 1941

Accused Sex Slayer Attempts to Hang Himself in Cell

Justice James W. Morris indicated late yesterday that he would turn over to the jury today for its consideration the confession of Catoe to the rape and murder of Mrs. Rose Abramowitz last March.

This turn in the case came two hours after the 35-year-old Negro defendant had reportedly tried to hang himself in his cell at District Court. Catoe was said to have undressed himself in the cell during the lunch recess, and then attached his belt to a sink faucet, apparently planning to put the other end of the belt around his neck.

A bailiff removed the belt, and Deputy Coroners Richard Rosenberg and Christopher Murphy were rushed to the scene, where Catoe told them: "I don't know how I got undressed and what happened. I had one of my spells, and everything went black."

OCT 21 1941

However, the physicians reported to Justice Morris that Catoe was unharmed and that there was nothing wrong with him. The defendent was brought back to the courtroom, adjusting his necktie as he entered.

Washington, D. C. Post
September 14, 1941

Equal Justice

The decision of Judge Daniel W O'Donoghue which sent Frank W. Jacobs to jail to await trial on charges of criminally attacking a 6-year-old Negro girl is more significant than it may appear at first glance. That act is not likely to have any appreciable effect upon the trial of this case, but it does invoke a basic American principle that can never be safely ignored. It puts the District Attorney's office and the court somewhat belatedly on record in favor of equal justice under law.

Formal sentences of death have been pronounced upon three Negroes found guilty of rape. Quite properly these men were allowed no bail after being arrested and indicted for their atrocious offenses. There is not the slightest reason why a different rule should apply in the case of a white man indicted on a charge of having assaulted a Negro child. Equal treatment of all who are called before the bar of justice is the very essense of democracy in law enforcement. The fact that disparity in the treatment of white and colored men accused of similar crimes was quickly eliminated when it came to the attention of the District Attorney and the court is a good sign. But the American concept of justice makes it imperative that no such disparity be permitted to arise in the future.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Swift Justice

When a local jury returned a verdict of guilty against Jarvis Catoe for the rape and murder of Mrs. Rose Abramowitz, the husband of the victim expressed relief that justice had been done. But he added, "if only there were some way to stop these terrible crimes before they happen!" So long as there are abnormal individuals dominated by the uncontrollable impulses that characterize most mass murderers, Mr. Abramowitz's wish will never be fully realized. Nevertheless, crime prevention is tremendously aided by meting out swift and fitting punishment, as in the present instance.

OCT 26 1941

To reduce preventable crimes to a minimum—which is a major objective of all our law enforcement efforts—a community must first establish a good record for apprehension of lawbreakers; then it must take care that the ends of justice are not defeated by letting criminals off, or imposing inadequate sentences. Finally (and of almost equally great importance for its sobering effect upon potential criminals), there must be prompt disposition of criminal cases. The speed with which the Catoe trial was pushed to a conclusion and a verdict rendered shows what can be accomplished when public opinion is sufficiently aroused. But one instance of swift justice provides no adequate guarantees for the future. Expeditious handling of this particular case merely emphasizes the necessity of permanently speeding up the processes of justice to take care of future crimes.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Catoe Denies Guilt, Jury May Receive Case Today

Confession Forced By Police 'Tortures,' He Says; Its Grim Story Brings Tears

By Robert R. Rand
Post Staff Writer

The fate of Jarvis Theodore Catoe, confessed sex slayer of seven women, may be turned over to a jury of 11 men and one woman late today.

With the completion of the 36-year-old Negro's cross-examination by the Government this morning, and after presenting one more witness, the defense will rest its case. The Government rested yesterday morning following the reading of Catoe's signed confession to the jury in the presence of Fannie N. Abramowitz, whose bride the defendant is accused of raping and strangling March 8 and for whose death he is specifically on trial.

At the conclusion of the reading, several of the jurors had tears in their eyes as they glanced at Abramowitz. Three of them wiped their eyes. The courtroom was deadly quiet as Attorney Curran then announced, "The Government rests."

Sudden Recess

Justice James W. Morris recessed the court suddenly at 4 p. m. yesterday when United States Attorney Edward M. Curran attempted to introduce to the court statements which Catoe allegedly made to four alienists at a pre-trial mental examination.

The defendant, on the witness stand at the time, had denied attacking and killing Mrs. Abramowitz. "No, sir," I did not, and I had never set my foot in her apartment until the officers took me there later," he declared emphatically, under cross examination by Attorney Curran.

"Didn't you tell a doctor that you had been in the apartment the day of the murder?" coutnered Attorney Curran. "Didn't you say to him that a man by the name of Turney had asked you to do some work there?"

At this point, defense attorneys objected, stating that conversation between the defendant and doctors was private, and could not be admitted as evidence. Attorney Curran and Assistant United States Attorney John W. Fihelly contended that Catoe had visited the alienists for an examination and not for treatment, and therefore the conversation was acceptable.

Justice Morris gave the attorneys until this morning to study the matter further, and to give additional arguments on the question, so that he may rule on admittance of the testimony.

Claim Confession Forced

In opening the defense yesterday, and preceding Catoe's testimony, Attorney Walter M. Shea told the jury that the "confession was induced by fear of torture, and as a result of deprivation of the things Catoe needed. He signed only when his resistance was broken down."

"Further," said Shea, "we will prove that the defendant had to be at work at 11 a. m. March 8, the day of the murder, and that he left his home at 10:15 a. m. and that he could not possibly have time to commit the crime with which he is charged."

Catoe, who has been extremely calm during the seven-day-old trial, was restless and showed signs of nervousness on the witness stand yesterday.

When questioned by Defense Attorney J. Robert Esher, he clenched his fists frequently, and wiped his brow with a deep blue handkerchief.

Again he told a story of police tortures which finally forced him to confess. "I answered 'yes' to everything they asked me," Catoe said. "I wanted to say that I didn't do it, but I was afraid. And when they took me to the apartment, Mr. Abramowitz made a break at me, but the officers held him back."

Catoe denied that he read any of the papers on which he had placed his signature. "I only went through the fifth grade," he said, "and I couldn't read a lot of the words anyway."

Attorney Esher showed Catoe the confession, and then asked him to point out words which he didn't know. The defendant read the four-page statement carefully, here and there picking out a word which he said he didn't know.

Under cross examination by Attorney Curran, Catoe was evasive, and continually answered questions by saying: "I disrecollect," and "I don't remember" and "I don't recall."

When the Government attorney asked for details about alleged police beatings, Catoe told him, "It is impossible for me to remember. I was in such a dizzy state with thousands and millions of officers questioning me all the time."

Refused Direct Answer

As the silver-haired United States attorney fired questions at him, Catoe interrupted. "You rush me too fast," he said. "I'm not as smart as you are. I can't think so fast."

Time and again the prosecuting attorney repeated questions as Catoe refused to give a direct answer. Finally, Justice Morris told the Negro: "You must answer the questions if you can. Give your explanations afterward if they are asked."

Earlier yesterday, before the Government rested its case, Abramowitz was called to the stand for the fourth time since the trial began. He told the court that Catoe "went ahead in a perfectly calm manner as he dictated the confession. And in front of me, Catoe identified the clothes that my wife had on when she was murdered," Abramowitz stated.

Attorney Fihelly then asked for permission to read the confession to the jury. Defense Counsel Shea objected, but Justice Morris overruled the objection.

The courtroom was still as Attorney Fihelly began to read. Abramowitz, sitting in the witness stand, faced the jurors squarely. Catoe was slumped in his seat and he licked his lips.

The jury leaned forward in a body, and listened intently. "She was in the kitchen," the confession read in part, "and I caught hold of her and brought her into the front room. I laid her down on the couch, and then I attacked her."

Attorney Fihelly went on. "After I finished with her," he read from Catoe's confession, "I pulled her clothes down and straightened her out on the couch. Then I opened her pocketbook and I got a $20 bill out of it, and then I came back and looked in where she was, and she was lying there. Then I went to work."

In another part of the confession, as read in the courtroom by Attorney Fihelly, Catoe has stated, "I had her around the neck by both hands just as I showed you in the apartment."

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Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

JOSEPH SPELL SEEKS JOB IN HARLEM AREA

FEB 8 1941

Defendant in Bridgeport Case Anxious to Get Settled Down Again

(Other Stories, Pictures Page 18)

By J. ROBERT SMITH

"My conscience is clear."

In New York, regaining his balance after the ordeal of the last eight weeks during which he was accused, arrested, indicted, tried and finally acquitted of raping his former employer, Mrs. Eleanor Strubing of Greenwich, Conn., Joseph Spell, handsome Louisiana-born butler told The Amsterdam Star-News that he is prepared to do any kind of work which will help him to rehabilitate himself.

Visiting the office of the newspaper Wednesday with his ever-faithful wife, Vergis, Spell re-told his story and revealed that his sole task now is scanning the want ad columns in search of a new job.

"No, I'm not going down to Louisiana," he declared in answer to questions, "that stuff was just put out but I never had any such intentions My biggest problem now is to get a job. I'm broke."

Quietly accepting the good wishes of those who could reach him to congratulate him on his court victory, Spell repeated his assertion made originally just after the verdict was announced in the Bridgeport Superior Criminal Court—that he bore no ill will to the wealthy white 31-year-old woman whose accusations plunged him into trouble.

A visit to Bridgeport this week revealed that residents of that New England town are, for the most part, quite satisfied with Spell's acquittal. As life there also began to return to normal, inquiry of the "man in the street" revealed an overwhelming agreement in the belief of the butler's innocence.

But the sensational highpoint in the 8-day trial, at 10:55 Friday night when members of the jury requested Judge Carl Foster to furnish them with a stenographic report of Sergeant John J. Teufel's testimony during his second session on the witness stand, is still felt in the air as absorbed conversationalists quickly admit.

Excused for their deliberations at 11:14 a. m., the members of the jury returned their verdict just 12 hours and 41 minutes later, at 5 minutes before midnight.

But it was that last hour, from 10:55 p. m., when the police officer's testimony transcript was requested by the jury, until the six men and six women emerged with the verdict, that is almost universally considered the tensest period of the entire trial.

Jury members later admitted that it was the resume of that testimony, dealing with the conversation between the policeman and Mrs. Strubing on the highway when she was picked up on the morning of December 11, which finally settled the discussion and brought an agreement on the verdict.

Steufel's official report, not offered in evidence during the trial, reveals that Mrs. Strubing indicated the existence of an "agreement" with Spell that no harm should come of their intimacy. On the stand, the officer never mentioned this fact but Attorney Friedman's cross-examination, jurors revealed, influenced in them ultimately the belief that the woman's part had not been unwilling as she testified.

FEB 8 1941

Reports of the jury's request for the testimony, at first apparently thought to be signs of their return with a verdict, brought crowds back into the courtroom. By the time the group did emerge with their decision, however, a large number of spectators had departed.

Those who were present received anouncement of the verdict in complete silence.

Spell, still appearing as calm and untroubled as he had throughout the trial, faced reporters and well-wishers immediately.

"I feel swell," he said quietly, "I knew I was innocent all of the time but I hold nothing against Mrs. Strubing."

Mrs. Vergis Spell, his wife, who stuck as close as possible to him from the moment of his arrest and who also testified during the trial, also expressed quiet satisfaction.

"I knew Joseph was not guilty of raping Mrs. Strubing and may God bless such a fair jury that she tried to fool."

Attorney Friedman, triumphant but still calm, despite the 12-hour wait for the verdict, simply said, "I am elated and I think the proper thing has been done. I could not be happier."

D. C.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Saturday, February 8, 1941

Become a Citizen—Prepare to Vote

The Negro's strength in affairs which concern his very existence is gauged by his ballot. If you are not a citizen, become one. The United States Naturalization Service has division offices at 641 Washington Street, Manhattan. CAnal 6-2100.

Strubing Case Not Closed

History was made in Connecticut last week when a jury of six white men and six white women acquitted Joseph Spell, a Negro, accused of raping a white woman, Mrs. Eleanor Strubing, his employer. It is needless to say there was no deliberate advantages given the defendant; on the other hand we find nowhere during the course of the trial where there was an "all out" attempt to "railroad" him.

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Not only Negroes, but all good Americans ought to rejoice over the verdict; not rejoice alone because Spell was exonerated but because justice, in the case, triumphed over prejudice. Obviously, the weight of the evidence was on the side of the defense, and the jury resolved the case solely on that evidence.

That Spell had competent counsel is evident; how he secured that counsel and who is paying the bills, perhaps, is not so evident.

For years now, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has been stepping into the picture whenever and wherever Negroes have been caught in the web of political or social intrigue, and has fought unceasingly to prevent any miscarriage of justice. A few hours after Spell was arrested the N.A.A.C.P. was on the job. It hired attorneys, and assumed responsibility for the expenses. The quality of the attorneys work may well be shown by the verdict.

We learn from Mr. Walter White, executive secretary of the N.A.A.C.P. that the total expenses in connection with the Spell trial amounts to something like $2000. Most of the bills have not been paid, but these bills must be paid.

FEB 8 1941

We hope that Negroes and other friends of justice and fair play will help liquidate these obligations immediately. Regardless of sentiment, attorneys must be paid, expert witnesses must be paid, and other items incident to the preparation and trial of a major case must be paid.

Mr. White also informs us that a number of persons have expressed verbal appreciation for what the association is doing not only for Spell as an individual but to protect the jobs of Negro chauffeurs, butlers and others who would have been fired if Mrs. Strubing's fantastic story had not been challenged. But few of them, he added, have been willing to give financial help. Only $107.74 had been contributed at press time.

We admit the evidence in Spell's behalf was strong, but without competent counsel to marshal that evidence and present it to the court and jury, little good could have come from it. The N.A.A.C.P. is to be congratulated for its work in this case, and every Negro in America who loves his own freedom ought to express his appreciation by contributing to the association's defense fund. Indeed, money is needed now to clear up the Spell case. It will not be closed until then. Send your contribution to the N.A.A.C.P., 69 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. C.

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Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

The Spell Case an Old Story

There isn't anything that is new in the Spell-Strubing case, tried in Bridgeport, Conn., last week.

It's as old as the Adam and Eve story. Adam said, "The woman tempted me and I did eat."

It's as simple as that. There was no question of race against race but merely an incident of simple adultery that defies our accepted code of morals.

The Bridgeport jury of six white men and six white women had to choose between two stories.

Eleanor Strubing, white, charged that her colored chauffeur-butler raped her. Joseph Spell testified that she enticed him.

The jury believed Spell, largely on Eleanor's admission that she walked across the floor with nothing on but a bath towel. There were other portions of the white woman's story that didn't make sense, but the bath towel business was a clincher.

* * * *

It is important to note that in portions of this country a colored man can get a fair jury trial when accused of rape by a white woman.

To do this, these twelve men and women had to disregard the usual emotional appeal that if Spell were not convicted, Eleanor would thereafter have to hang her head in shame.

Despite this, the jury, after deliberating thirteen hours, brought in a unanimous verdict of not guilty.

* * * *

For Eleanor Strubing, thoughtful people can have little respect. She had intelligence, a husband, a home, and servants.

Spell's story was that she gave him her money, her jewels, and finally herself. Whatever made her blab about it afterwards, we don't know, but that variety of "kiss and tell" people in the world is well known, and they make conventional folk shudder.

Joseph Spell had neither intelligence and education nor morals. He had no respect for himself and his job, nor for the woman he called his wife.

He was hired by his employer not only to take care of his house but also of Eleanor, even though she be giddy and brazen. He lacked the fundamentals of being a good servant, which are honesty and trustworthiness.

* * * *

Spell says he's quitting Connecticut to go back to his home in Louisiana. We hope he does, and without preaching a sermon we recommend that he get down the family Bible and read in Genesis the story of Joseph and Potiphar's wife.

The Hebrew Joseph, a better servant than Joseph Spell, went to jail when Mrs. Potiphar staged a bath towel act for his benefit, but he saved his honor.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Death Asked for Two on Trial In Attack on D. C. Waitress

The death penalty was demanded by Government counsel yesterday for two youths on trial in the District Court on charges of kidnaping a waitress at the point of a knife and assaulting her four times.

Mrs. Gertrude Imlay, mother of two children, collapsed on the witness stand when she was testifying about mistreatment at the hands of Albert M. Farmer, 23, and Francis J. Mulvey, 23. "I can't tell any more," she sobbed, interrupting a question being asked by Assistant District Attorney William Hitz, jr.

Justice James M. Proctor recessed court for 10 minutes until Mrs. Imlay regained her composure. She said Mulvey seized her as she walked home from work the night of September 13, 1940, held a knife to her throat and threatened to kill her if she made an outcry. She told the jury of three women and nine men that the defendants took her to a secluded place in Maryland, forced her to strip, assaulted her and stole her purse, finally returning her to Washington.

Robert W. McCullough, defense counsel, said in his opening address that the defense witnesses were expected to show that Mrs. Imlay went on the party willingly. Attorney Andrew A. Lipscomb also is defense counsel.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Catoe Loses Plea for Retrial, Again Proclaims Innocence

With his attorneys' motion for a new trial denied and a sentence of death in the electric chair about to be pronounced upon him, Jarvis T. R. Catoe yesterday faced Justice James M. Morris and said calmly:

"After I'm gone the murder will remain unsolved—you won't have the right man."

Then, still stoically chewing on a wad of gum as he did throughout the trial, the convicted sex-slayer of Mrs. Rose Abramowitz heard the justice sentence him to die on February 6.

Previously, the court heard arguments by defense attorneys—Walter M. Shea, George G. Boden, and J. Robert Ssher—that a new trial should be given Catoe because his confession and admission to an examining alienist were improperly admitted in evidence.

The judge decided, however, that the matter had been "exhaustively" argued during the trial, and that no new proof had been submitted. He said the question of whether the confession was exacted from Catoe by force had been properly given to the jury to decide, since it was a contested point.

The defense attorneys indicated that they would appeal Catoe's fate to the U. S. Court of Appeals within 90 days.

United States Attorney Edwin M. Curran and his assistant, John W. Fihelly, argued the government's case.

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Washington Post
Washington, D; C.

'Feared For His Life'

Catoe Denies Guilt, Charges Police Forced Him to Confess

OCT 19 1941

By Robert R. Rand
Post Staff Writer

Calmly and quietly, and with his hands folded in his lap, Jarvis T. R. Catoe testified in District Court yesterday, charging that police had beaten him after his arrest, had deprived him of food and rest for 24 hours, and that finally, exhausted and in fear for his life, he confessed to numerous murders and rapes which he had not committed.

The 36-year-old Negro defendant, charged with the sex slaying of Mrs. Rose Abramowitz on March 1, prefaced his testimony by telling Justice James M. Morris:

"I'll tell you the truth. I'll give you the facts of what happened to the best of my knowledge."

Facing the crowded courtroom and showing no sign of nervousness, Catoe told of his arrest on the morning of August 28.

"I was very weak and sick that morning," he said, "and I was going to the drugstore to get some medicine. Just as I got into my car, the officers swarmed around and arrested me.

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"They took me to headquarters and questioned me continually. Before they put me in the line-up, one of the officers said, 'You think you're a smart guy, don't you? Well, we've got eight women who are going to put the finger on you.'

"The cops kept grilling me, and when one group would get tired some more would come in and keep it up," Catoe continued. "Then they tipped my chair back and put my leg around it. They twisted my arm back and somebody pushed something in my back. I begged them to stop and I hollered, 'I'll sign the confession. I'll sign. Yessir, just let me go.'"

Lowers Voice to Whisper

At this point Catoe described further indignities he said the officers had inflicted on him, allegedly beating him at the same time. The defendant glanced around the courtroom to see if any women were near the witness stand as he spoke, and he lowered his voice to a whisper as he told what the officers had "said and done" to him.

Testifying but a few minutes before, Police Chief Edward J. Kelly had denied charges of police brutality. "I even commended the officers on the fine way they had treated Catoe," Maj. Kelly said. "And Catoe told me that no policeman had touched him, that he was ready to take his medicine. He said he was sorry for what he had done, and he asked his friends to pray for him."

On the stand yesterday, Catoe told of other incidents, in which, he said, the police had struck and threatened him. He said one of the officers had told him, "You'll get no sleep until you come clean."

Signed Papers Unread

"Another officer," testified Catoe, "told me, 'We've got about 25 murder cases on our hands, and we're getting hell. We've got to clean them up, so come clean.' After I got frightened, I signed about 25 papers. I didn't read them or know what they were. I thought that under the law I was supposed to sign them, so I did.

"Late at night, they took me out to where the Strieff girl was murdered, and one of the officers said, 'Have you got the ropes?' and the other one answered, 'Yes, let's string him up on a tree.'"

During Catoe's testimony and that of other witnesses yesterday, the jury was absent from the courtroom. They will not be permitted to hear any of this testimony if Justice Morris refuses to accept the defendant's confession as evidence. However, if the Justice concludes that there is question as to whether the confession is admissible, he will turn the problem over to the jury, and yesterday's witnesses will take the stand again in the presence of the jurors.

When yesterday's court session was adjourned at noon, defense attorneys had not finished questioning Catoe. The defendant will return to the stand tomorrow morning for more questions and for cross examination by United States Attorney Edward M. Curran, who is personally directing the prosecution aided by Assistant United States Attorney John W. Fihelly.

Brother on Stand

Catoe's attorneys are Walter M. Shea, J. Robert Esher and George Boden.

Also on the stand yesterday were Catoe's brother, John Catoe and District Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald. John Catoe told the court that he first heard of his brother's arrest through a phone call from a relative who had seen the report in the newspaper. "They wouldn't let me see Jarvis for three days, and then they told me to bring him food, that he didn't have anything to eat," the defendant's brother said of the officers.

"When I saw Jarvis, I said, 'How are you feeling?' and he said he wasn't feeling so well. Then one of the officers asked him, 'We've been treating you all right, haven't we?' Jarvis was very nervous and he winked at me and answered, 'Yes, fine.'"

Dr. MacDonald testified that he had given Catoe a physical examination a few days after the arrest, that he was uninjured, and that Catoe had told him, "The officers have treated me fine. I have no complaint to make."

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Girl Is Held Prisoner 3 Days, Attacked 3 Times

DEC 6 - 1941

WASHINGTON

George Ennett, 28, 328 B Street, Northeast, was held for the action of the grand jury Wednesday after Miss Sarah Cunningham of 106 Q Street, testified that he offered her a job, Friday, took her to his home, kept her a prisoner for three days, criminally attacking her each day.

The young woman told Judge George D. Neilson in police court that she met Ennett Friday at Fifth and K Streets, where he approached her and offered her a job; that they took a taxi and went to his home, where he forced her to remain until Monday.

She said she was forced to submit to the man on three occasions while a prisoner in the house and was left alone several times while he went out to buy food for her, escaped Monday while he was out, went to the Women's Bureau, reported her experience and his arrest followed.

DEC 6 - 1941

Four other persons visited the house while she was there, Miss Cunningham said, but stated that she was afraid to make an outcry.

Ennett is reported by prosecuting attorneys to have been convicted on a similar charge on a previous occasion.

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Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

'OGLETHORPE COUNTY, BY CRACKY, LAST STRONGHOLD OF ANGLO-SAXONS

LEXINGTON, Ga., Oct. 8 (ANP)—Appearing in the Sept. 25 edition of the Oglethorpe Echo, local white daily, was a resolution by the grand jury branding false the charges of peonage in upper Oglethorpe county, and upholding Judge Bascom Deavers of the middle district court of Georgia in his refusal to extradite Hamilton McWhorter and William Tolliver Cunningham, white, for trial in Chicago.

Tolliver and Cunningham were charged with keeping Negroes in conditions of slavery and peonage, and Atty. William Henry Huff of the Abolish Peonage Committee had sought to have them extradited to Chicago for trial. However, Judge Deaver ruled against the peonage lawyer and refused to release McWhorter and Cunningham to the Chicago court.

Said the resolution in part: "Whereas, our county of Oglethorpe through the widespread publicity given the case has been held up to the nation as an object of ridicule, branding us as barbarous, inhuman and anti-social, we, the Oglethorpe country grand jury, wish

"Therefore, to go on record as branding the charges false, malicious and libellous and feel that any individual, body or organization striving to stir up racial hatred is not contributing to the democratic form of constitutional government ... The south and more especially Georgia and Oglethorpe county is the last stronghold of Anglo-Saxon civilization in this country, and we, the descendents of those forebears who carried the bloody flag of freedom across countless battlefields and planted it upon a thousand hills, protest with every fibre of our being the injustice that has been dealt us..."

Holding that Judge Deaver had handed down a true and correct decision, the resolution said "We also wish to commend that fearless southern gentleman, Judge Bascom Deaver of the middle district of Georgia, for his action in the case to the end that true justice would be served."

Protest was also registered by the grand jury against the book "Our Native Land," written by Anna Louis Strong. It is their contention that the book "holds the county up to ridicule, being scurrilous, malicious and without basis in fact." The county grand jury also brand it as "unfit reading for people of the county."

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

GEORGIA BACKING PEONAGE SYSTEM IN LATEST MOVE

LEXINGTON, Ga. (ANP)—Appearing in the September 18th edition of the Oglethorpe Echo, local white daily, was a resolution by the grand jury branding false the charges of peonage in upper Oglethorpe county, and upholding Judge Bascom Deavers of the middle district court of Georgia in his defusal to extradite Hamiton McWhorter and William Tolliver Cunningham, white, for trial in Chicago. OCT 11 1941

Tolliver and Cunningham were charged with keeping Negroes in conditions of slavery and peonage, and Attorney William Henry Huff of the Abolish Peonage Committee had sought to have them extradited to Chicago for trial. However, Judge Deaver ruled against the peonage lawyer and refused to release McWhorter and Cunningham to the Chicago court.

Said the resolution in part: "Whereas, our county of Oglethorpe through the widespread publicity given the case, has been held up to the nation as an object of ridicule, branding us as barbarous, inhuman and anti-social, we, the Oglethorpe county grand jury, wish OCT 11 1941

"Therefore, to go on record as branding the charges false, malicious and libellous and feel that any individual, body, or organization striving to stir up racial hatred is not contributing to the democratic form of constitutional government. The South and more especially Georgia and Oglethorpe county is the last stronghold of Anglo-Saxon civilization in this country, and we, the descendents of those forebears who carried the bloody flag of freedom across countless battlefields and planted it upon a thousand hills, protest with every fibre of our being the iniustice that has been dealt us."

Macon, Ga., News
September 22, 1941

NEGRO MOB SAVED TO BE TRIED HERE

Trial of Eddie Lee Spivey, Dodge county Negro whose life was spared after a mob took him from jail, was shifted today from Eastman to Macon, under a change of venue order granted by Judge Eschol Graham.

Solicitor General Charles H. Garrett of the Macon circuit, who will conduct the prosecution here, set the case for trial on October 1.

Spivey, indicted for rape, faces a possibility of death in the electric chair, if convicted.

The order for change of venue was granted by consent of the state and the defense, and was filed here Saturday.

In the stipulation for changing the place of trial it was agreed by counsel for Spivey, D. Lee Churchwell, Macon, that no question will be raised as to the impaneling of the grand jury in Dodge county or to the fact that no Negroes serve on the grand jury or that no Negroes names were in the jury box.

With this point eliminated by consent as to the grand jury, it could not be raised in Bibb county in reference to the trial jury, as Negroes are on Bibb jury panels.

Solicitor General M. H. Boyer, Hawkinsville, and A. Russell Ross, Eastman, special prosecuting attorney, will assist Mr. Garrett in the prosecution of the case here.

Witnesses for the state have already been summoned.

Spivey's case attracted national attention when he was taken from the jail and later returned unharmed when mob members said there was insufficient evidence against him.

He is being held in the Bibb county jail.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ALLEGED ATTACKER MUST DIE IN CHAIR

NOV 29 1941

WAYCROSS, Ga., Nov. 26—It took just three days for citizens of this small community to raise in cash $500 to put into a defense fund to save the life of a Negro youth, George Williams, who is convicted of rape and already sentenced to die in the Georgia electric chair on November 30th.

Friday night of last week the Big Brothers' Council, made up of men and women of this Ware county town, held a meeting in a local church and raised $250 of the total amount asked by defense attorneys. Monday night in Mt. Zion AME Church the final $250 was placed on the table at the enthusiastic and spirited meeting, presided over by the militant Rev. William Stephens, former Atlantan and pastor of the Mt. Zion Church here. He is chairman of the Big Brothers' Council. NOV 29 1941

Williams, popular in this community and a long time resident here, was arrested, indicted of first degree rape of a young white woman, tried in a hurried trial and later sentenced to die in the electric chair, for the alleged rape. Leading citizens of the community feel that the case is a trumped up one and are going far in defending the young man.

Present at the meeting to raise these funds and heard during the meeting were Ossie Jefferson, of the Guaranty Life Insurance Co., of Savannah, Ga., and LeRoy M. Washington, of the Afro-American Life Insurance Co., of Jacksonville, both who made contributions to the fund. Others heard were Ted Washington of this city, community leader here, and others.

Heading the defense for Williams, and seeking to get an appeal and a new trial for the lad is Attorney Blalock, one of the most brilliant white criminal lawyers of this section.

Announcement was given Monday night that there would be held another meeting of the council on Friday night of this week in the Phythian Hall.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Trial Framed By Lynch Mob, Spivey Charges

DEC 5 - 1941

The mob which returned him to jail alive promised to "legally lynch" Eddie Lee Spivey, the 22-year-old Dodge county Negro told a Bibb court jury in a brilliant 50-minute unsworn statement Thursday afternoon.

Spivey said the mob decided not to lynch him when the white victim failed to identify him as her attacker. But, he added, they said, "We can make evidence and send him to the electric chair."

Efforts to introduce "manufactured evidence" against him in court were cited by Spivey in two instances.

These included the state's hints that Spivey attacked a Negro woman, and proposed a date with a 7-year-old white girl. The Negro also called the jury's attention to some defense witnesses "backing down" on statements which Attorney D. Lee Churchwell said they had given him.

DEC 5 - 1941

MAY END TODAY

The defense closed its testimony shortly after Spivey's statement.

Judge A. R. Ross of the Eastman city court made the opening statement for the prosecution.

The court adjourned for the night at this point.

Trial of the famed "Judge Lynch" case should be concluded today. Defense Attorney Churchwell and Solicitor Charles Garrett are to make their closing arguments when court opens at 9 a.m.

Spivey, by means of maps of his own, traced for the jury the path he said he took on the morning of the attack. They did not follow the path taken by the attacker. He urged the jurors to compare footprints which he made in a box of dirt in the courtroom with those sketched and described by Tom Graham, star state witness.

The Negro said the victim failed to identify him when the sheriff took him to her home. Then when the mob had him, members of the mob said she could not identify him as her attacker, he said.

When he was returned to jail, Spivey quoted Sheriff Lewis as stating, "You owe your life to that woman because she did not identify you.

DEC 5 - 1941

Prior to Spivey's statement, Judge A. M. Anderson had not allowed any testimony concerning the mob's action, and had not permitted the state to present anything Spivey might have done or said the morning following the mob action.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Accused Negro To Take Stand In Trial Today

DEC 4 - 1941

Some of Eddie Lee Spivey's white witnesses were impeached by defense counsel yesterday, as Bibb superior court closed the third day in the trial of the Negro charged with raping a Dodge county white woman last June.

Spivey is expected to take the stand today.

Defense Attorney D. Lee Churchwell told the court that Witnesses Elza Peacock, William Peacock and B. H. Young had "backed down on what they told me before the trial."

He attempted to impeach Mrs. Maggie Moore, but the court ruled this witness had not entrapped him. Churchwell also had trouble with Mrs. Joe Brown, but this reluctant witness testified on cross-examination that Spivey had a good character.

DEC 4 - 1941

FRIGHTENED BY CROWD

While the defense was having trouble with some reluctant witness, however, Mrs. Edna Haute testified that Spivey had a good reputation.

Moses and Harvey Spivey, brothers of Eddie Lee, said officers carried them out and compared their footprints with those of the attacker, before they arrested Eddie Lee., Carrie Spivey, Eddie's mother, told of seeing a crowd forming around the jail. Lula Lampkin, Eddie's aunt, also told of seeing a crowd milling about the jail, and of talking with Eddie, who was praying. She said the attitude of the crowd frightened her.

DEC 4 - 1941

STATE ENDS CASE

Efforts to show that Spivey had proposed a date with a 7-year-old white girl in some woods, and had torn a Negro woman's clothes off in an attempt to rape her, were made by Solicitor Charles Garrett in cross-examining defense witnesses. All of he witnesses said they had not heard of these two incidents.

DEC 7 - 1941

Spiveys footprints were taken in court to refute prosecution witness testimony that the Negro's second toes were longer than his big toes. Churchwell said Spivey's second toes were no longer than his big toes, after taking the prints. Tom Graham, a star witness for the defense, had testified he tracked Spivey by this distinguishing feature of his foot.

The state closed its testimony Wednesday morning.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Juror Offers Job to Spivey

DEC 7 - 1941

Confidence in Eddie Lee Spivey's innocence in the famed "Judge Lynch" case was carried a step further, Defense Attorney D. Lee Churchwell said, when two members of the jury offered the Dodge county Negro a job in Macon.

Churchwell said he had been informed the jury voted 12 to 0 for acquittal on the first verdict Friday afternoon. Spivey, the only man to be returned alive by a mob, was on trial four and a half days in Bibb superior court charged with raping a Dodge county white woman.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Young Negro, Once Seized By Mob, Freed

Bibb County Jury Acquits Spivey on Charge of Assault

DEC 6 1941

MACON, Ga., Dec. 5.—(AP)—A young Negro once seized by a mob bent on lynching him and then returned to jail voluntarily unharmed was acquitted today of a charge of assaulting a middle-aged white farm woman.

The Bibb county superior court jury deliberated one hour and fifty minutes after the week-long trial of Eddie Lee Spivey, 22-year-old farmer from near-by Dodge county. The public was excluded from the trial.

DEC 6 1941

"I think the Lord has saved me for a purpose, to preach or teach or something for the carrying on of his work," Spivey said upon hearing the verdict. He protested his innocence in a 50-minute unsworn statement to the jury, permitted under Georgia law.

Last June, a mob stormed the Dodge county jail, dragged the Negro out into the night, went to woods near the home of the woman and then two hours later returned him unharmed. Officers said members of the mob said they brought him back for "lack of evidence."

DEC 6 1941

The Negro told the jury that, after he pleaded his innocence to the mob, a delegation took him to see the woman, who said she couldn't identify Spivey.

At the trial, the state said the woman positively identified Spivey as the attacker after viewing him and two other Negroes, all masked. She said her attacker wore a mask. Defense counsel contended her vision was poor.

After the trial, Spivey was jailed again "for his own protection." There was no trouble here, where the trial was shifted on change of venue, but authorities said Spivey would be taken to another state and that his wife and two children already had moved from Dodge county.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Folly of Mob Violence

DEC 8 - 1941

Eddie Lee Spivey, Dodge county Negro, charged with criminal assault, first talked a mob out of lynching him and then, by his unsworn statement before the trial jury, was largely instrumental in winning a verdict of acquittal.

The defendant astonished his hearers with his 50-minute speech, described as "brilliant," which we like to interpret as the convincing power of the truth, but an outstanding lesson is the criminal folly of mob violence which, by the record, would have sent an innocent man to his death.

DEC 8 1941

Finally, it is quite obvious that Negroes on a jury are not necessary for a Negro to get justice in a Georgia court.

6713

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

FACES 3 YEARS IN PRISON AFTER RAPE CONVICTION

APR 30 1941

Wesley L. Bennett, 37 years old, a hotel salesman, faced a three year term in prison yesterday after being convicted of statutory rape Monday night by a jury in the Criminal court of Judge Julius Miner. Two girls, one 11 and one 13 years old, testified Bennett gave them money and mistreated them in the apartment of Mrs. Henrietta Hatcher, colored, 370 East 58th street. Bennett, who lives at 4935 North Mozart street, admitted taking the girls for automobile rides but denied the charge.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

GETS 75 YEARS FOR RAPE AND 30 FOR ROBBERY

Chester Calloway, 31 years old, colored, an escaped convict from Texas, was sentenced yesterday by Judge Julius Miner in Criminal court to 75 years in prison on a charge of rape. Calloway also was sentenced to serve a minimum term of 30 years on three charges of robbery, the sentences to run consecutively.

Calloway was identified by a telephone operator as the robber who on July 4 forced her into an alley near her home on the west side and raped her after threatening to kill her. He was armed. Calloway, arrested on suspicion, denied the rape but admitted committing a number of street and store holdups.

Assistant State's Attorney Irwin Clorfene said Calloway had escaped in 1932 from the Rumley, Tex., prison farm, where he was serving an 8 year sentence for larceny and perjury.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

DEC 6 1941

Woman Admits Her Attack Charge Against Bell-Boy Was A Frame-Up

What promises to be a happy ending for the intended victim in a rape case frame-up will take place December 11 when Jesse Johnson, 39, of 214 E. Garfield boulevard, faces trial before Judge Oscar Caplan on charges of disorderly conduct.

The rape charges were lodged against Johnson, bell-boy at the Crest hotel, 1519 Adams street, Sunday, by Miss Alice Collins, white

Trouble arose Sunday when Miss Collins summoned the management and reported that Johnson had entered her room and forced her to submit to his advances. When, after listening to the woman's story the proprietor refused to believe her, Miss Collins went to the Desplaines police station and made a report.

Johnson was taken into custody Sunday night by Desplaines police who went to his home. After being held for nearly three days, Johnson was released Tuesday after his counsel, Atty. Claud W. B. Holman, threatened to follow up a habeas corpus action with a suit against police.

Attorney Holman's action resulted after Miss Collins on Monday, admitted her rape charge was false and that Johnson had "only taken some money off her dresser." She was hesitant about explaining this action on part of the bellboy.

DEC 6 1941

Johnson, upon being arraigned before Judge Caplan, Wednesday, through his counsel entered a plea of not guilty to the new charge of assault, the rape charge having been dropped.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

TAXICAB DRIVER GETS LIFE TERM AS RAPE KILLER

Sentenced Day After His Confession of Crime

NOV 13 1941

Saginaw, Mich., Nov. 12 [Special].—Just 24 hours after he was arrested for the rape murder Nov. 3 of 20 year old Wandamay Wheatley of Saginaw, a telegraph operator and former Hemlock High school girl, Winford W. Smith, 35, Saginaw taxicab driver, today was sentenced on a first degree murder charge to life imprisonment in Southern Michigan prison.

Judge Mark D. Taylor of Hillsdale added a recommendation that his case never come before the parole board for consideration of pardon. Judge Taylor acted as a substitute due to the illness of the presiding Circuit judge. Smith had pleaded guilty.

Sheriff Hugo A. Muehlenback prepared to take Smith to Jackson prison tonight.

Mich
NOV 13 1941

Calls It Dastardly Crime.

Before pronouncing sentence Judge Taylor called Smith to the bench and said: "Mr. Smith, this court has never had a more dastardly crime than this. How any human could commit such a crime I cannot comprehend. Even the beasts of the jungle don't do that to their kind. This puts you in a lower class than those.

"I am ashamed that the state of Michigan does not have capital punishment. Why the taxpayers should be burdened to keep you in comfort for the rest of your life is beyond my ability to understand.

"Then there is also the chance that some half witted parole board will consider you have become a nice boy and pardon you."

NOV 13 1941

Court Spectators Applaud.

There was a brief burst of applause from the crowded courtroom as Judge Taylor pronounced sentence, but it died quickly as officers hustled Smith from the courtroom back to his cell.

Previously Smith had waived a Justice court examination when arraigned in Justice Arthur Clements' court held in the county jail shortly after noon.

A pawned watch that had belonged to the slain girl led to the arrest of Smith, who has been married only 10 months and is the father of a 4 week old daughter. Smith confessed the killing soon after his arrest.

6715

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

NEGRO'S TRIAL IS SET ON ASSAULT CHARGE

APR 9 - 1941

Case Is To Be Heard At West Point

Miss. 1371

Special to The Commercial Appeal

WEST POINT, Miss., April 8.—With his life at stake, Mathew Douglas, 32, one-eyed negro from Webster County, goes on trial here in Circuit Court Thursday morning to answer the state's charge of criminally assaulting and robbing a young West Point waitress.

The state alleges the crimes were committed the night of Feb. 10. The negro is said to have accosted the young woman as she was walking home from work.

Douglas, father of a week-old baby, was indicted Monday. Circuit Judge John C. Stennis appointed Frank a Critz and Thompson McClellan to defend him.

Dist. Atty. Lavelle Brown of Starkville says the state will demand the death penalty.

Quitman Blancett of Pheba, an exconvict goes on trial Friday on a charge of murder in connection with the knife slaying of Tucker McKee of Phe

APR 9 - 1941

Edison Edwards, arrested along with Blancett after the slaying escaped from the county jail here several weeks ago. He is still at large. J. E. Caradine was appointed to defend Blancett.

Also indicted Tuesday was William Keifer, listed as the operator of "The Top Hat," an establishment located just north of here on Highway West 45. Keifer, charged with operating a disorderly establishment, entered a plea of not guilty.

A young West Point waitress, victim of the attack, calmly watched State's Electrocutioner Jimmy Thompson as he put Douglas, father of three young children, to death.

Some 35 persons witnessed the first execution by electrocution in Northeast Mississippi, and an unusually large crowd milled around the Court Square, near the jail.

Sheriff Tom Saul granted the last request of Douglas to permit him to share his chicken dinner and lemonade with his wife, three children and stepdaughter.

The negro was convicted during the April term of court of criminal assault on the young white woman.

37 H - 1941
Miss

News
Birmingham, Ala.

NEGRO GOES TO DEATH FOR ATTACK ON GIRL

MAY 24 1941

Young Victim of Assault Sees Execution

Special to The Commercial Appeal

WEST POINT, Miss., May 23.—Outwardly calm and with little show of emotion, Mathew Douglas, 32-year-old Webster County negro, early Friday was electrocuted for the criminal attack on a young white woman.

37h

6716

Argus
St. Louis, Missour

ACQUITTED OF RAPE

MAY 6 1941

Robert Shovey of South Kinloch, Mo., who was accused of raping a whiite woman, Mrs. Zipha Ann Nowak of Airport and Brown Road, St. Louis County, last summer, was acquitted in Judge Nolte's court in Clayton, Thursday afternoon. The jury was out nearly two hours before it returned the verdict. The state, through the Prosecuting Attorney's office had asked for the death penalty for Shovey.

MAY 16 1941

The defense was represented by Attorneys George L. Vaughn and Joseph E. Babka. The strength of the defense was an alibi for the accused which was supported by strong witnesses, including Shovey's wife, who testified that her husband was with her all day on August 15, 1940. Several character witnesses including bankers, army officers, nurses and physicians testified as to Shovey's good character.

37h-1941

MISSOURI

6717

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

Freed of White Woman's Charge

DEC 7, 1941

Arthur Parker, 23, was acquitted by a jury in Circuit Judge William K. Koerner's court of a charge of having criminally assaulted a 20-year-old white waitress March 2. Members of the jury, which deliberated the case overnight, said they had reasonable doubt of Parker's guilt.

Counsel for Parker contended the woman was mistaken in her identity of Parker, asserting her assailant was another who was shot and killed in the same neighborhood when he attempted to attack another woman. Parker maintained his innocence and refused to consider a light sentence for a plea of guilty to the charge.

The waitress was waiting for a bus at Chouteau avenue and was dragged into an alley, beaten and attacked.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Jury Frees Man From Criminal Assault Charge

DEC 20 1941

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (ANP) — In Circuit Judge William K. Koerner's court here, a jury which deliberated most of the night acquitted Arthur Parker of a charge of criminally assaulting a white waitress last March 2.

The waitress, 20 years old, was beaten and criminally attacked when she was waiting for a bus shortly before midnight. Parker stoutly maintained his innocence and refused even to discuss the possibility of pleading guilty to obtain a lighter sentence.

It was the opinion of jury members that there was reasonable doubt of Parker's guilt, since the only evidence against him was the woman's identification.

6718

Afro-American.
Baltimore, Maryland

Teacher Cleared in White Girl's Charge of Assault

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Lionel Sanbourin, 24-year-old New Orleans school teacher and native of Greensboro, N.C., on Friday was exonerated in common pleas court on criminal assault charges filed by a 16-year-old white girl.

An all-white jury of nine men and three women deliberated less than an hour following a six-hour trial.

The white girl, Elizabeth Warriner of Philadelphia, had testified that Sanbourin, who worked as bellman in a local hotel during the summer, had chased her and forced her to go to a room.

Consent Admitted

On cross-examination, however, Isaac H. Nutter, defense counsel, drew from her admission that she had stayed away from home for three nights at the time she met Sanbourin on Virginia Avenue and agreed to let him secure a room at the Hotel Attucks.

She also admitted that the defendant left at midnight to go to work, returning the next day.

Knew About Registry

On the witness stand in his own defense, Sanbourin admitted having registered at the hotel as Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, a fact of which the girl was aware, he said.

Another defense witness stated that he had seen the Warriner girl in mixed groups on the Northside on many occasions. A number of character witnesses, including a college professor and clergymen, appeared in Sanbourin's behalf.

6719

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

...ciety Strikes Back

...agabond Sex-Murderer to Die For Strangling Housewife

Special Dispatch to The Post

New York, May 19.—George Jo... Cvek, 24-year-old vagabond, ... confessed to attacking and rob... 18 women, including one Wash... today was convicted of ... degree murder in the strangling ... Catherine Pappas, pretty ... -old Bronx housewife.

... all-male jury took but 43 ... to reach the verdict and of... recommendation of mercy. ... the death penalty is manda...

... Pappas, known to her neigh... as "the Egyptian princess," was ... February 4 on a couch in her ..., a towel knotted about ...

... who fooled many of his vic... into believing he was a former ... of Father Flanagan's Boys ..., was captured three weeks ... in a New York City hotel.

... the interval between the ... and his capture, Cvek at... Mrs. Ruth Franco, 29, then ... at 230 Rhode Island Avenue ... Washington on February ... He gained entrance into the ... home by posing as a friend ... Franco's husband, Joseph, ... employe, who was at work. ... told police Cvek conversed ... her for an hour before he ... and bound her, ransacked ... apartment, attacked her, and ...

... captured by New York de... after a remarkable bit of ... Cvek confessed the at... on Mrs. Franco. She also ... him from photos.

Detectives who undertook the ... for the pimply-faced criminal, ... from victims that he gen... used one of two ruses: He ... as a former member of Boys ..., trying to overcome his past ... juvenile delinquent; or he'd tell ... women that he had once been ... by their husbands, and ... to return the small sums ... had given him as a hitchhiker.

Strangler Gets Death Penalty



GEORGE CVEK

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala

Death Is Decreed For Attack Slayer

NEW YORK, May 19—(AP)—George Joseph Cvek, 24-year-old scar-faced hitch-hiker who the State charged robbed or attacked at least 14 housewives, was convicted on first degree murder today in the strangulation of Mrs. Catherine Pappas, 33-year-old Greek Sunday school teacher.

Failure of the jury, which deliberated 43 minutes, to recommend mercy makes the death penalty mandatory.

When Bronx County Judge James M. Barrett fixed May 21 as the sentencing date, Defense Attorney Martin Benjamin told the court:

"Cvek has made the request that all the women who accused him of attacking them be present in the court on the day of sentence."

The court made no comment.

The defendant had testified he "scuffled" with Mrs. Pappas in her Bronx apartment last Feb. 4, and left her bound hand and foot, but insisted he did not know she was dead until he read of it.

News
Birmingham, Ala

Killer Spits At Judge As He Is Given Death Sentence In Gotham

NEW YORK—(AP)—George Joseph Cvek spat at the judge Wednesday as he was formally sentenced to die in the electric chair for the strangulation slaying of Mrs. Catherine Pappas in her Bronx apartment Feb. 4.

The sentence, imposed by Judge James M. Barrett, was mandatory on the 24-year-old Harrisburg, Pa., hitchhiker's conviction for first degree murder. The youth also has been accused of robbing or attacking more than a dozen other women in Eastern cities.

The sneering defendant, escorted by six deputies, spat first at Acting Detective Lieut. Edward Byrnes, who obtained two confessions which Cvek later recanted.

Before the court set the week of July 7 for his electrocution at Sing Sing Prison, Cvek burst forth in a bitter tirade:

"All I have to say is this: This is a wonderful country here that everyone is talking about where a man has to admit a crime, to save himself, which he didn't commit."

After calling Dist. Atty. Samuel J. Foley "a damn liar" and being upbraided by Judge Barrett for cursing, the prisoner told the court he was ready for sentencing, then suddenly shouted:

"... But leave out 'May God have mercy on your soul,' because if there was a God he wouldn't let things go like they have been."

"I intended to leave it out anyway," replied Judge Barrett.

He then sentenced Cvek, omitting the phrase "May God have mercy on your soul."

Cvek trembled as he heard the death sentence. His hands were strapped into a protection belt by deputies as they led him away.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

HITCH-HIKER GETS DEATH SENTENCE IN N. Y. SLAYING

New York, May 19 (AP).—George Joseph Cvek, 24 year old hitch-hiking panhandler, was convicted of murder today in the strangling death of Mrs. Catherine Pappas, 30 year old Bronx housewife, in her apartment last Feb. 4. The jury made no recommendation of mercy, making the death penalty mandatory. The jury deliberated 43 minutes.

Mrs. Pappas, a Greek Sunday school teacher, was found on a couch, a towel knotted about her neck. Cvek was arrested about three weeks later after police had pieced together a description of him from other women he was accused of robbing and raping.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Spell Regains His Car From Police

FEB 22 1941

Joseph Spell, the acquitted butler in the "Strubing Quadruple Rape Case," had his car back Monday, after it had been picked up by Harlem police because it bore 1940 license plates.

When the deadline for 1940 plates had passed, Spell was still in the custody of Bridgeport police so when he was freed and motored to New York City, he found himself about the only person still on the streets with 1940 plates.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

WHITE PAIR ARRESTED FOR FALSE TESTIMONY

37h

MAR 8 1941

BURLINGTON, N. C., Mar. 6.—Hope was revived here this week that Leroy Wagstaff may escape the death penalty imposed upon him for an alleged criminal assault on a white woman known as Thelma May. A motion was made Monday in Superior Court asking for a new trial after Attorney W. L. Robertson, representing Wagstaff, procurred a warrant for the arrest of J. C. May and his alleged wife, Thelma Pack, on charges of perjury.

This new action was taken after police last week arrested May and the woman on charges of adultery and they were committed to jail in default of $1,000 bail each to await a hearing on the charges. Police assert the man and woman have been living together for 10 years but that they have never been legally married.

THE PROSECUTOR SPEAKS

They were arrested after considerable investigation by local and State police following a wide protest over the conviction of Wagstaff for raping the woman. Wagstaff has stoutly denied the charge and claims he was being railroaded. Governor Broughton took an interest in the case and stayed execution in order to study the circumstances and this new development has resulted.

May, a local auto mechanic, and his alleged wife testified as man and wife at two trials for Wagstaff. The first, in August, 1939, resulted in a mistrial. At the second trial in May, 1940, Wagstaff was convicted and the death sentence imposed.

MAR 8 1941

Attorney Generay Harry McMullen said he did not believe the charges against the Mays will have any legal effect on the Wagstaff case, but "it would be considered by the parole officer and Governor J. M. Broughton when executive clemency is considered."

37h-1941

PENNSLYVANIA

6721

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Prove Pair At Work At Time Of Assault In White Sport House

37h

The shadow of prison that hung threateningly over the heads of David Hughes, 25, and Cody Ferrell, 39, both of Manayunk, who were tried on statutory charges made against them by Theresa Leahey, 15 year old white girl, was removed last Saturday after four days of sordid testimony.

The rape charges were placed against the two young men after the arrest and subsequent conviction of Mary [redacted], the mother of five children, and her sister, Bertha Lee Gregory, 21, both of 190 River Road in West Manayunk, on charges of keeping a bawdy house, enticing minors for immoral purposes, solicitation to commit sodomy, and sodomy.

NEIGHBORS COMPLAINED

The two women were arrested on complaints of neighbors that these women were using their home as a place where young white girls were brought to meet colored men.

A number of white girls were investigated as having been seen going to and from this house and the white girl who accused Hughes and Ferrell told police that the two men had raped her on the same day in April at Mrs. Yancey's home.

It was brought out by Raymond Pace Alexander, counsel for the two defendants, that no report of these alleged attacks were made until May when the two women were arrested. He also showed that on the specific date mentioned by the plaintiff the two men were employed on their respective jobs and produced their time cards as evidence. The employers of Hughes and Ferrell were also present to testify to the good character and reputation of both men.

WITNESS TESTIFIES

In addition to this, Alexander called a white man named Peter Juliano, 45, a resident of Norristown, who under subpoena, was forced to admit that he had been at the Yancey home on several occasions and had had intimate relations with the plaintiff three different times.

The identification by the girl of a man named Joseph Clark as being Hughes, the man who raped her, when it was obvious to the court that the two men looked nothing alike, also helped to win the verdict of acquittal for the two men.

At the conclusion of the trial, Judge George C. Corson complimented the all-white jury and the district attorney on the fairness with which they had handled this case, strongly condemned Mrs. Yancey for conducting such a disreputable house, and indicated that he would impose a very severe sentence upon her.

6722

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

Jury Acquits Two Negroes In Rape Case

PHILADELPHIA, Penna. — After a three-day trial of two young colored men who were charged with having raped a fifteen-year-old white girl, an all-white jury composed of eight women and four men, acquitted David Hughes and Cody Ferrell.

The girl testified that in January, 1941 she was attacked by the two accused men at the home of Mrs. Mary Yancey, a colored woman in Manayunk, a suburb of Philadelphia. In the same court Mrs. Mary Yancey and her sister, Mrs. Bertha Lee Gregory, had been convicted of maintaining a house of ill-repute and the fact that the accused men were able to produce their time cards showing that they were at work on the day and the hour of the alleged attack is believed to have influenced the jury in reaching its decision after five hours of deliberation. The defendants were represented by Raymond Pace Alexander, prominent Philadelphia attorney.

7038

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

EVEN WHITES MUST DIE FOR RAPE IN S. C.

JAN 4 - 1941

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 2—Con[victed] of criminally assaulting a [young] white woman of this city, [Hampton] Lee, 26, also white, has been sentenced to die on February [ ] in the electric chair.

[Hugh] Evans, white, 22, also con[victed] in the case, had previously been sentenced to execution on the same date. Motions to set aside the verdicts and order new trials were denied by Presiding Judge H. Henderson.

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Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Defense Charges Prejudiced Jury Brought Verdict Against Thomas

FEB 7 1941

GEORGETOWN, S. C.— Reaction to the exciting court trials of the week just ended as observed by your reporter is, a generally expressed opinion the George Thomas sentenced to die in the electric chair February 28, for reputedly assaulting a white woman, was not the guilty man. In fact, I have yet to hear a statement for white or colored, expressing belief that he was guilty.

The highlight of the court's session was the address of lawyer A. L. King, the lawyer who represented Bigham in the famous "Bigham case" some years ago. Mr. King was appointed by the court to represent Isaac Gibson, the second Negro charged with criminal assault. Mr. King tore down every particle of evidence offered by the state. In selecting the jury for his client, Mr. King said emphatically, "I don't want any member of that jury who sent Thomas to the chair on yesterday."

The solicitor interrupted, "Do you mean to say that there was prejudice in Thomas' case?"

"There was nothing but prejudice," the defense lawyer retorted.

In both cases, the defense put up a stiff battle. The two issues raised by lawyer Murray (Thomas' counsel), concerning a change of venue and the placing of Negroes on the jury, were overruled by judge Thurmond. George Thomas was given a death penalty and Gibson 40 years only because the law did not permit a heavier sentence. The verdict in Gibson's case carries a penalty of from 5 to forty years. (The jury had found him guilty but recommended mercy).

FEB 7 1941

The state's evidence in Thomas' case was flimsy. Several defense witnesses concurred on every point, stating that Thomas was at home on the December 14, the night of the alleged rape. However, J. Lee Wilson owner of Wilson's Groceteria, testified that Thomas was in his store on Front Street about 8 o'clock that Saturday night, the night of the attack, and his testimony was accepted against that of several defense testimonies.

SEEKING APPEALS

The Georgetown local defense group for the accused man is busily raising funds, with which both cases are to be appealed.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

White Man Convicted Of Raping Negro In South

SEP 27 1941

COLUMBIA, S. C.—Credit for the conviction of George Surrat white, accused of raping a 14-year-old colored girl here, goes to the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the ministers of the city, who in one day raised $375 to employ a lawyer to handle the case for the girl.

The conviction came on September 12, when Gary Paschel, city councilman who was employed by the branch of the [illegible] Denominational Alliance, assisted the City Solicitor in prosecuting the case.

SEP 27 1941

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

NEGRO ADMITS ATTACK, TO DIE IN CHAIR TODAY

APR 18 1941

Will Pay With Life For Assaulting Memphis Woman

A 31-year-old Memphis negro is scheduled to be put to death at dawn today at the state prison at Nashville for criminally assaulting a Memphis housewife here a year ago yesterday.

APR 18 1941

Governor Cooper, in keeping with his policy of personally interviewing all condemned men, said he visited the negro, Van Gilmore, and that the negro admitted his guilt.

Gilmore, according to records in the case, had previously been indicted for assault, but was never tried on that indictment. The records in his present case revealed that his victim testified that she and her nephew were riding in a car near Huegenot Street and that the car stalled near a railroad track. The negro, according to the testimony, approached with a gun and forced the nephew to leave the car, then criminally attacked the white woman.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
August 22, 1941

PAROLE REQUESTED FOR ANDY WRIGHT

Negro in Scottsboro Case Seeks Freedom to Stay With Mother Here

The state of Alabama has asked parole officials if they would permit Andy Wright, Chattanooga Negro who is serving a ninety-nine years sentence in an Alabama prison for his part in the celebrated Scottsboro criminal assault case, to be paroled to his mother in Chattanooga, it was disclosed here yesterday.

The Negro's mother, Ada Wright, 2431 Long Street, has applied to the Alabama prison authorities for a parole for her son.

Claude Keith, of Dayton, parole officer for the state of Tennessee, informed The Times last night that he is making an investigation of the application. He said the Tennessee parole board was asked by B. L. Stephens, supervisor of paroles for the state of Alabama, whether it would agree to the Negro being moved to Chattanooga and paroled to his mother. The Tennessee parole officer stated his investigation yesterday, but said last night that he had not completed it and, therefore, is not ready to state what his recommendations will be.

This matter was investigated once before by a former parole officer, Julian Burkhalter, Mr. Keith said. It was Mr. Keith's understanding that Burkhalter declined to recommend that the Negro be allowed a parole in Tennessee. The new request was for additional information, according to Mr. Keith.

The Negro's mother stated in the application that Wright could obtain employment at a filling station. Keith said he had not investigated this statement. He did examine, however, Wright's claim that he could obtain employment at a wholesale grocery house where he was employed before getting involved in the Alabama case, and said that he found that not to be accurate.

Wright and a number of other Negro boys were taken off a freight train at Paint Rock, Ala., on March 25, 1931, upon complaint of Ruby Bates and Victoria Price and charged with criminal assault upon the two white women. They were tried and convicted of criminal assault and sentenced to death. But before the executioner could carry out the verdict of the jury, a stay order was issued by the United States supreme court and a new trial ordered. The high court found that Negroes were excluded from the jury which tried the Negro boys. Later, Wright was tried again and found guilty. His sentence was ninety-nine years in the penitentiary.

Eugene Williams, Haywood Patterson and Roy Wright, also Chattanooga Negro boys, were involved with Andy Wright in assault case. The Scottsboro case became one of the most celebrated that the south has had in many years. It was fought in all of the courts of the state and in the United States supreme court for several years. Wright did not enter the Alabama prison until July 31, 1937.

Mr. Keith said he had heard that application was made by one of two parties in New York seeking to have Wright paroled to them. Apparently the applications were denied isasmuch as an effort is being made to have him paroled to his mother in Chattanooga, Keith said.

6724

Chicago Bee
Chicago; Illinois

Editor Retracts Rape Charge Against Police

6724

SEP 21 1941

MEMPHIS, Sept. 18—(ANP)—At the instigation of Police Commissioner Joe Boyle, Elihue Stanbeck, editor of the Industrial Leader, weekly paper, retracted a story carried in the Leader, August 23, which was captioned "Bold Policeman Rapes 22-Year-Old Girl Monday Night." This correction came on the heels of Commissioner Boyle's statement that the man mentioned in the story was not a city policeman, but a special officer connected with the army depot project.

Running the story in his paper Saturday, Stanbeck reported that investigation made by Chief Deputy Oliver Perry held the charge of the rape was unfounded, and also stated that the girl's age was given as 19 instead of 22. No mention of Boyle's demand for correction was made, however.

It was revealed that the girl's escort was Stanbeck's brother, Coward, and that the editor has taken the girl's word. His brother, the editor said, could not identify the man whom the girl claimed made the attack.

Tell Different Stories

Deputy Perry stated that the girl had picked out the man whom she claimed had assaulted her, and said "If I have to die for saying it, this is the man who did it." The man, however, denied all knowledge of the incident. It was Perry's opinion that the girl's story was "unfounded" because of the difference in tales told by the escort and her.

Upon questioning the girl's mother, it was learned that the girl had never had a date until that night. It was revealed that Stanbeck had taken the woman and her daughter to a friend's home. Upon returning, he asked the daughter to accompany him while he went for some drinks. It is said that the incident occurred just after they had left.

Asked if she was satisfied with the investigation, the mother said that she and her husband wanted to drop the case, for it was their belief that "not too much harm" had been done and the girl was still alive.

37h-1941

TEXAS

6725

Negro Sentenced To Death Here

DEC 10 1941

— A sentence of death was passed on Richard Robinson, 38-year-old Houston negro, Tuesday.

Judge Langston G. King sentenced Robinson to die in the electric chair on Jan. 16.

DEC 10 1941

The negro was convicted of criminal assault on a white women here on the night of Aug. 8, 1940. The attack occurred in the woman's apartment while her husband was at work.

Robinson was found guilty and given the death penalty by a jury on Jan. 14, 1941. The court of criminal appeals affirmed the conviction.

Houston Post

The negro had nothing to say before sentence was imposed.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Virginia Youth Doomed To Die Unless Mass Protests Halt His Legal Lynching. Feb. 21st

FEB 1 1941

RICHMOND, Va.—(CNA)—Joe Mickens, a 15-year-old lad of Waynesboro, Va., will go to the electric chair on February 21 and another "rape" frame-up will be written into the record in blood unless loud protests back up the legal steps now being taken to appeal the case in the Virginia State Supreme Court.

The International Labor Defense which describes the frameup as a new Scottsboro case, this week made public its details. They are not original.

Last November, Joe Mickens' mother sent him to the grocery store. He did not return. Mrs. Mickens learned that he was being held in jail for the unpaid balance of a $14 fine for driving an automobile without a license. She managed to raise the required amount, but when she went to the police station she was informed that Joe had been removed to Roanoke for "safe-keeping"—he had confessed "to a crime which might bring on a race riot."

Joe's story is this: He was held in jail and questioned by ten white detectives. They offered him liquor, which he refused. Then they offered him a drink which they said was root beer. After drinking it, he became dizzy. He remembers that they then put a rope around his neck and drew it tight. It would get tighter, they told him, unless he did as he was told by Police Chief Webb of Staunton. He remembers that he was put in an automobile and that he signed a paper given him by a white man known to him as "Lawyer Franklin."

The paper he signed was the "confession." A death verdict was returned against him, exactly four hours after the start of the trial.

The white woman whom he was accused of attacking declared on the witness stand that she was "not sure," when asked to identify the youth as her assailant. Before she left the stand she was not sure even that she had been attacked at all.

On the night of November 24, when the attack is supposed to have ocurred, between 10:45 and 11, Joe Mickens had gone to the movies with a friend named Robertson—who was not permitted to testify at the trial. Leaving the theatre at 10:30 p. m. Joe met his cousin, talked to him briefly, went straight home and to bed. He was asleep when his sister came home a little after 11 o'clock.

On February 21 the State of Virginia will pull a switch that will burn the life out of young Mickens unless an aroused public opinion halts this legal lynching.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Appeal Mapped For Doomed Boy In Assault Case

By the Associated Press

Waynesboro, Va., Feb. 7.—Charles Curry, dean of the Staunton bar, has been retained by the family of Joseph R. Mickens, 15-year-old Waynesboro Negro, to appeal to the Virginia Supreme Court the youth's death sentence for felonious assault on a young Waynesboro white woman.

FEB 8 1941

Mickens is now in the State penitentary at Richmond awaiting his scheduled execution on February 21. Mr. Curry said at his office in Staunton that he would seek an appeal on the grounds that the Augusta Circuit Court in which Mickens was given the death sentence was without jurisdiction in the case in view of the Negro's youth.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

15 Year Old Boy Sentenced To Death For Rape In Va.

JAN 11 1941

Protests from every part of the country to Judge Floridus S. Crosby, Staunton, Virginia, against the death sentence he meted out to Joseph R. Mickens, 15-year-old Negro boy on an alleged "rape" charge, were called for last week by the International Labor Defense in a statement denouncing the trial and verdict as "one of the most hideous miscarriages of justice since the Scottsboro case.

Fifteen-year-old Joseph Mickens has been sentenced to die in the electric chair on February 21," the I.L.D. call for protest action stated. "He was sentenced without a jury trial by Judge Floridus S. Crosby of the Augusta County Circuit Court in Virginia. The N.A.A.C.P. which is supplying the legal defense in this case reports that the trial was conducted in a community where the atmosphere was so hostile to all Negroes that it was impossible to secure a jury trial. The boy's birth certificate proves that he is only a lad of seven years old today. There are less than two months in which protest action can be mobilized to save this innocent child's life and to prevent one of the most hideous miscarriages of justice since the Scottsboro case. Protests from every part of the country should be sent without delay to Judge Crosby, Staunton, Virginia."

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Doomed Va. Youth Granted Reprieve In Assault Case

FEB 18 1941

Richmond, Va., Feb. 17 (AP).—Joseph R. Mickens, 15-year-old Negro, sentenced to die February 21 for an assault on a Waynesboro white woman, was reprieved by Gov. Price today to May 23 to permit time for an appeal to the State Supreme Court.

Mickens was convicted in the Augusta Circuit Court December 19 after waiving jury trial and was sentenced to death by Judge Floridus S. Crosby.

New Masses
New York, N. Y.

Virginia's Scottsboro Case

FEB 4 1941

Also charged with "rape," a fifteen-year-old Negro, Joe Mickens of Waynesboro, Va., has received a death verdict effective February 21. Like Mrs. Strubing, the plaintiff was "not sure" of some things—such as whether the defendant looked like the man who attacked her or, in fact, whether she had been attacked at all! The state's case was largely based on a "confession" signed by Joe Mickens after police had persuaded him to drink a glass of root beer containing some other ingredient which befogged his mind. A friend of the Negro child, who was not allowed to testify at the trial, has related that Joe spent the evening of the alleged attack with him at the movies. There were other conspicuous holes in the prosecution's case. Yet the trial, ending in a death sentence, lasted only four hours. Unless the Virginia State Supreme Court overturns the verdict, Joe Mickens may pay with his life for the "white supremacy" traditions of Virginia's aristocracy.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Virginia Executes Man For Criminal Assault

SEP 27 1941

Richmond, Va., Sept. 26 (AP).—Charlie Brown, 26-year-old Negro convicted in Isle of Wight Circuit Court of criminally assaulting a white woman, died in the electric chair at the State Penitentiary at 7:43 a. m. today.

Gov. Price had granted Brown two reprieves while he made a study of the case, but decided against further intervention before leaving early this week on a budget inspection tour of State institutions in Tidewater Virginia.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Protests in Negro Death Verdict Win New Trial

MAY 8 1941

Films, Evidence Brings Retrial for 15-Year-Old Boy

(Special to the Daily Worker)

RICHMOND, Va., May 7. — Condemned to death on Dec. 19, 1940, after a 45-minute trial without jury from which the public was barred, Joseph H. Mickens, 15-year-old Negro, today won a new trial by decision of the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia.

Sentenced to die in the electric chair on Feb. 21 this year, statewide protests from labor and progressive groups and citizens to Governor Price brought a stay of execution until the supreme court could rule on the appeal.

Mickens was charged with "rape" of a 21-year-old white girl in Waynesboro where the Mickens family of 13 have lived all their lives and have won the respect of the entire community.

MAY 8 1941

At the closed trial before Judge Crosby in Augusta County Circuit Court, the "rape victim" testified that she was not sure she was raped—she "didn't know what happened"—and said she was not certain of Mickens' identity in any case.

A new trial was granted by the Supreme Court on a writ of error based on the law that a minor cannot be tried as an adult.

The date of the new trial has not been set.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Poll Tax Evil Appeal Base For New Trial

Sentenced To Die, Youth's Case May Reach High Court

STAUNTON, Va. — Indicating that the case would be carried to the U. S. Supreme Court on constitutional questions relating to the poll tax, should the appeal be denied by the Virginia high court, counsel for Odell Waller, now under death sentence for the killing of Oscar Davis, Gretna farmer in 1940, appealed for a new trial by oral argument before the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals Monday.

Waller's lawyers argued that the grand jury which indicted him and the venire from which the trial jury was chosen were all poll tax payers, which was a violation of both state and federal constitutions.

Counsel for Waller, who is being given legal support by the Workers Defense League, based the appeal for a new trial upon the following ten assignments of error:

1. Denial by the trial court of a motion to quash the indictment against Waller on the claim that the grand jury had been selected exclusively from poll tax payers, and that this was in violation of the petitioner's rights under both State and Federal constitutions.
2. Denial of a motion to quash the entire venire faacias, all poll taxpayers, and systematic exclusion of non-poll taxpayers.
3. Refusal of Judge Turner Clement to disqualify himself after "prejudicial" remarks.
4. Denial by the trial court of a defense motion to dismiss the entire jury panel within hearing of the court when these remarks allegedly were made.
5. Denial of a motion for change of venue.
6. The overruling by the lower court of a challenge for cause against James R. Green and all jurors so circumstanced economically on the ground that Green, being an employer of sharecroppers, was incapable per se of being an impartial juror in a conflict between employer and sharecropper over distribution of a crop.
7. The overruling of a challenge for cause against G. W. Farson.
8. Admission of Davis' dying statement.
9. Refusal of the court to withdraw from the jury an instruction on homicide.
10. Refusal of the court to set aside the verdict as contrary to the law and evidence.

Waller, now 24, was convicted by a jury in Pittsylvania County Circuit Court in October of 1940 on the charge of fatally shooting Oscar Davis, white Pittsylvania County farmer, owner of the farm on which the Wallers were sharecroppers.

Most sstartling testimony for the prosecution was given by the two sons of the dead man. They said when they visited their father just before he died, he repeated four times: "I am going to die. Odell shot me without any cause."

Whether Davis died as a result of the pistol shots fired by Waller or from a collapsed left lung was not clearly established when the attending physician was questioned. Cross-examination brought out that no bullet had penetrated the lung.

Testifying in his own behalf, Waller told the court that he had gone to Maryland to work after Davis had refused to increase their share of land from one acre to two. Returning he said he asked for his share of the wheat raised in the one acre.

Davis continued to put him off, he said. On the day of the shooting when Waller asked him again, he said Davis replied, "Hell, no! You can't have any," and moved his hand towards the pocket in which Waller said he knew the man always carried his gun. It was then the fatal shooting took place.

At the time of the conviction, defense attorneys made a motion for appeal on the grounds that Judge Turner Clement disqualified himself by "prejudiced and inflamatory remarks" in the presence of the jury. The jury was also asked to be disqualified at that time, which the court refused.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Boy, 19, Admits Fatal Attack On Va. Girl

By the Associated Press

Lynchburg, Va., Oct. 20.—Speedy court action was expected today for Charles T. Johnson, Jr., 19, Negro, who State Police Sergt. L. L. Stanley said admitted the rape-slaying of Gladys Mae Tyree, 18-year-old Appomatox High School senior.

Commonwealth's Attorney J. Tinsley Coleman, of Nelson County, announced that a special grand jury would convene November 1 to investigate the slaying.

The body of the girl was found late Saturday night after a six-hour search in a woodland hollow some distance from a road leading into Gladstone. Dr. W. L. Watts, Allens Creek physician, who examined the body, said death resulted from strangulation and that there was evidence that the girl had been raped.

Johnson was arrested at his home near Gladstone by State Police Sergt. L. L. Stanley and Trooper L. F. Payne, who said they found the man lying across a bed fully dressed and apparently asleep.

Stanley said a warrant was sworn out charging Johnson with murder and rape and that he confessed making the attack. The officer said the arrest was made after he learned from L. M. Tyree, an uncle of the girl, that a man was seen following the high school student as she walked along the road toward a store at Gladstone.

Attendants at Whitten funeral home said death had probably taken place in midafternoon, and that the body was bruised and scratched.

Funeral services were held this afternoon at the home, with burial in the Tyree family cemetery.

Miss Tyree was born in Nelson County, August 23, 1923, the daughter of Willie Carrington Tyree and Mrs. Elizabeth Vest Tyree. She is survived, besides her parents and a brother.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

An Innocent Negro Boy and Helping the Appeasers

• The dooming to death of a 16 year-old Negro boy on a palpable "Scottsboro rape" frame-up in Virginia is a matter which requires the special attention of the entire country.

Here is not only a crime against the anti-fascist Negro population and their citizenship rights. It is an attack upon national unity and plays into the hands of the appeasers whose devotion to Hitler makes a mockery out of the country's democratic traditions. It is, moreover, strictly out of keeping with the recent surge of Southern public opinion against Talmadge and his Ku Klux attitude toward Negro rights.

The appeal of the boy, Joseph Mickens, has just been turned down by the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. The case against him was based on a confession procured by torture. In the last year, the United States Supreme Court has reversed several death sentences against Negroes because of tortured confessions, and the judiciary in Virginia has flouted both the tenor of the Supreme Court decisions as well as progressive opinion in the South.

The America First Committee is seeking to make capital out of the just grievances of the Negro people in order to split national unity against Hitler—and therefore, to the detriment of the Negro people themselves. Such a decision as this is grist to their mill.

In the all-out fight against Hitler, there is a basis in the country today for Negro and white working shoulder to shoulder in full equality. There is the desire of anti-fascist Americans that the constitutional rights of the Negro people should be strictly observed and Scottsboro frame-ups ended.

The International Labor Defense, which is handling Mickens' case, should be given the widest support. Citizens should write directly to Gov. James H. Price, Richmond, Virginia, urging him to prevent this legal lynching and free young Mickens.

6727

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Virginia Court Dooms Negro Boy On Rape Frameup

OCT 18 1941

I.L.D. Urges Torrent of Protests to Gov. Price in Death Verdict

Joseph Mickens, 16 year-old Negro boy, was doomed to die in Virginia's electric chair on a "Scottsboro rape" frameup, when the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals upheld the death sentence on Oct. 16.

The boy was arrested on Nov. 25, 1940, in Waynesboro, Va. His mother had sent the 16-year-old boy to the grocery store. When he didn't come back and his arrest was reported to her she ran to the police station, to learn that he was being held on a "rape" charge pressed by a white woman who "couldn't remember what had happened" or "who did it."

Young Joe's trial, held on Dec. 19, 1940, without a jury took exactly 45 minutes and was held behind closed doors. He was sentenced to die on Feb. 21, 1941. Subsequent investigation disclosed the fact that the police had secured a "confession" from the boy by torturing him and plying him with what they said was root beer until he could not remember what he did.

OCT 18 1941

At the request of interested citizens in Virginia the International Labor Defense called for a protest campaign addressed to the Governor of Virginia urging him to grant a stay of execution until the case could be taken to higher courts on appeal. The campaign was successful. On May 7, 1941, the higher court acted favorably on a writ of error presented by the defense.

Its ruling of last week closes all recourse to the courts unless new evidence can be found, since no federal question was raised in the original trial and there is therefore no means of taking the case to federal courts.

OCT 18 1941

The only thing that can save Joseph Mickens' life is action by Gov. James H. Price. The International Labor Defense strongly urges all friends of justice to write or wire the Governor at once—at Richmond—asking him to prevent the legal murder of an innocent child.

Washington Post.
Washington, D. C.

Supreme Court Stays Execution Of Virginia Boy, 15

NOV 30 1941

Joseph R. Mickems, 15-year-old Richmond, Va., Negro sentenced to die December 5 for rape, was granted a stay of execution yesterday by Chief Justice Stone.

The stay was granted to permit him to file a petition for a review of his conviction. The Chief Justice gave him until noon Friday to present the application.

NOV 3 1941

The offense was alleged to have taken place near Waynesboro, Va., November 24, 1940. The application was presented by Charles Curry, Staunton attorney.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Boy, 16, May Be Saved from Chair

DEC 6 - 1941

WASHINGTON

Execution, on a rape charge, of frail, 16-year-old Joseph R. Mickens, of Waynesboro, Va., may be averted if the United States Supreme Court decides to review his conviction.

Chief Justice Harlen F. Stone on Saturday granted a stay of execution and gave the youth's attorney, Charles Curry of Staunton, until noon Friday to file a petition for a review of his trial in the Circuit Court of Augusta County.

Mickens, having waived a jury trial, was convicted by Circuit Judge Floridus S. Crosby of criminally attacking a young white mother of a 6-month-old child, near midnight on November 24, 1940.

DEC 6 - 1941

Appeal Futile

The Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction, ruling that the trial and punishment of a minor rightfully followed the regular criminal procedure. The youth's counsel had contended that the case should have been transferred to the juvenile court.

The case has taken on added significance because of the arrest of two 16-year-old white boys on a charge of murdering Ward Loveless, a white District of Columbia attorney, on his estate in Leesburg.

DEC 6 - 1941

Mickens, arrested the day following the alleged attack because of dirt on his clothing and scratches on his face, is said to have confessed under police grilling.

His accuser said she was seized from behind, dragged to the rear of a vacant lot and overpowered, but only after a struggle during which she scratched her assailant's face and blackened his eye.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Governor Halts Execution Of Virginia Sharecropper

DEC 1 2 1941

New Appeal Is Based On Old Law Concerning Poll Taxes

RICHMOND, Va.—(SNS)—The execution of Odell Waller, 24-year old Negro sharecropper, for the shooting of his white landlord, Oscar Davis, at Gretna, Va., in 1940 in a dispute over crop shares, was stayed Thursday until March 20th, 1942 by Governor James H. Price of Virginia in response to appeals by Workers Defense League attorneys for time for the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia to act upon a writ of habeas corpus which raises the poll tax issue.

The petition for a writ of habeas corpus, filed last week in Virginia's highest court, uncovered an 1870 Act of Congress which, according to the Workers Defense League which is handling Waller's defense, may give the Supreme Court of the United States a new basis for holding payment of a poll tax unconstitutional as a qualification for voting. The court cannot act on the petition until it reassembles January 12, 1942, according to reports from Thomas H. Stone of Richmond and John F. Finerty of New York, attorneys for Waller.

TAX ISSUE RAISED

DEC 12 1941

The poll tax issue was raised because Odell Waller was tried by a jury composed exclusively of payers of Virginia's $1.50 cumulative poll tax. The petition for a writ of habeas corpus presented proof that non-payers of poll taxes were systematically barred from voting lists and from grand and petit juries in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, where the trial occurred, and that not a single non-payer was found on any jury list. Of the 36,000 eligible voters in the county, only 6,000, about 20 per cent paid their poll taxes in 1940.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

184TH SOLDIERS SMUGGLED OUT OF TOWN AFTER BEING FREED OF RAPE CHARGE IN WISCONSIN

OCT 18 1941

SPARTA, Wis. (ANP)—After hearing charges of rape and assault filed May 12 against three soldiers of the 184th field artillery, now stationed at Fort Custer, an all-white jury in Monroe county circuit court of Judge Charles Beckman here returned a verdict of not guilty last Saturday. The verdict, returned after Capt. Louis Euclid Taylor and Gen. William J. Warfield had presented unshakable defense in setting forth circumstances upon which charges were based, came as a shock to Judge Beckman. The judge personally polled the entire jury at the close of the trial to ascertain the veracity of the decision.

John Orgain, James Hilliard, Royal T. Hudgle and Clarence Frazier, the defendants, all of Chicago, were accused of criminally attacking Miss Violet Van Kirk, white, of Sparta, and beating her escort, Pvt. Forest Stagg, white, attached to 21st field artillery regiment, afer encountering the couple in a lonely field at Sparta on the night of May 10.

Denying the charges, the defendants cited that they, along with other white and colored soldiers, had accidentally come across the couple lying in a field a short distance from a skating rink in which the soldiers had attended a dance. They testified that instead of joining the rest of the soldiers in kidding the couple about theid embarrassing situation, they had nothing more to do with the affair.

False testimony made to military authorities at Fort Custer by Vereck Edwards, alias "Burt Dickson," a Negro M. P., that he had witnessed the attack on the girl by soldiers caused their subsequent arrest. However, at Saturday's trial in Capt. Taylor's cross-examination, Edwards' testimony was proven false, and revealed that Edwards' mental status bordered close upon a state of delinquency nullified his previous testimony.

The failure of Miss Van Kirk and Pvt. Stagg to identify any of the accused as their assailants also aided the jury in reaching the "not guilty" verdict.

Another development took place that afternoon after the boys had been released from jail into the custody of Capt. Taylor. An official of Camp McCoy military police, Capt. Arthur Davidson, white, notified Capt. Taylor that he intended taking the defendants to his headquarters at Camp McCoy to await arrangements for transporting them back to their regiment. He was accompanied by several aides. Sensing the hostile attitudes of the white soldiers, Capt. Taylor refused to relinquish custody of his clients.

In order to avert a clash, Capt. Taylor resorted to a ruse by going to the local station and purchasing one railroad ticket, conveying the impression that he was leaving Sparta that night alone, and that the four released soldiers would spend the night in town. However, the four youths were hidden in an automobile parked some distance from the station and on the opposite side of the tracks so that when the train pulled into the depot, no one would observe them boarding the flyer from the blind side. Their fares were later paid aboard the train.

The revelation that the youths were tricked into signing their names to a blank sheet of paper, to which a typewritten confession to the alleged assault and rape were added, brought to light another of the numerous devices resorted to by Sparta authorities to gain conviction of the defendants.

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Athens, Ga., Banner-Herald
December 26, 1940

THE ANTI-LYNCH BILL

It is to be hoped that the friends of the anti-lynching bill in Congress will allow it to remain dormant when Congress convenes in January. This bill passed the House by a considerable majority, but when it reached the Senate, southern senators, lead by Senator George delayed and fillibursted it to the "table" where it remained throughout the session, at least, it has not been taken up since the election.

Now that the presidential election is over, it would serve no good purpose nor would it help politically the Republicans in doubtful states. Besides, the number of lynchings throughout the nation, and especially in the southern states, for the past year has shown a marked decrease. This condition has been brought about on account of our people realizing the importance of preserving the law, and thereby prevent such lawless acts.

Under the bill, now pending in the upper House of Congress, provision is made for penalizing the counties in which lynchings occur by imposing fines of ten thousand dollars on the counties. While this fine would come out of the taxpayers, the people committing the crime, no doubt, would pay a very small portion of the fine. Such a fine would not estop lynchings, but on the other hand, it is believed that such a law would tend to excite resentment and cause more lynchings than now take place.

The recent action of the colored Congressman from Chicago, who was ejected from a Pullman car, while riding through Arkansas and forced to take a seat in the passenger coach set aside for colored people has issued threats that he proposes to ask Congress to repeal the Jim Crow provision. In doing so, he proposes to also urge that the senate revive the anti-lynch bill that has been resting in the senate for the past several months. Just what effect, if any, the Jim Crow incident will have on the anti-lynch bill remains to be seen, but now that election year has passed, it is not believed that the supporters of the bill will make a definite fight for its passage. Another four years and then a presidential election, the Republicans, seeking to control the negro vote may undertake to introduce and have passed such a bill, but until then, we do not feel uneasy over the action of Congress.

Rome Ga News Tribune
January 8, 1941

Pending Blows At South

To what extent members of the Congress will take time out in efforts to crack down on the South, remains to be seen but even now there are indications that at least two anti-Southern measures will be pushed by those who never hesitate to put politics ahead of patriotism.

The old, frost-bitten, mis-named anti-lynch bill will be dug out of the pigeonhole while a new issue will be proposed by those who seek to do away with the poll tax in the South. Both measures are dangerous, both are unconstitutional and unconscionable but both have an appeal to the negro politicians of New York, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Ohio and a few other states, and, therefore, will be pushed regardless of the demands that patriotism may make upon these politically minded lawmakers.

And, unfortunately, a few Southern representatives have so fallen under the spell of the Northern politicians that they actually remain silent in the face of such threats, though few lend aid to the enemy as Senator Pepper, of Florida, is doing. However, this is not surprising in Pepper because he is generally recognized as a prune.

The great need of the South is for more representatives with the courage of such old-timers as John T. Morgan, Tom Watson, Ben Tillman, John Sharp Williams and numerous others who might be mentioned. These gentlemen commanded a respect for the South that was reflected in countless ways and the same sort of courage displayed at this time would bring the same results. They carried punches that all men respected and were such punches ready to be delivered now, upon all needful occasions, an entirely different situation would exist.

The South has numerous able representatives today but too many of them seek to win a square deal for their section by fawning instead of by fighting, and the fawning process won't always work. Best results are achieved when opponents know that they will find a red-hot fight on their hands if they go too far, and what the South needs is more of the fighting spirit. It needs more men who will let the anti-lynch crew and the no-poll-tax agitators know where they get off.

Exercise of the fighting spirit will not only result in the defeat of measures such as those proposed but would speed the end of discriminations of all sorts. In sum, more hefty blows and less bowing and scraping is what is needed if the interests of the South are to be properly defended.

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

Dixie Senator Opposed

JAN 31 1941

Anti-Lynching Bill

JAN 31 1941

NEW YORK.—A long and bitter fight, reminiscent of the campaign waged against the Judge John J. Parker that kept the North Carolina jurist off the United States Supreme Court in 1930, will be conducted against Senator James Byrnes, if President Roosevelt nominates the South Carolina representative to fill the post left vacant by retiring Justice James C. McReynolds, officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said this week.

The announcement came on the heels of newspaper reports from Washington indicating that Senator Byrnes, one of the President's chief aides in the fight to pass the lease-lend bill, had the inside track on the appointment, and quoting the President as saying that he had already chosen the man who would succeed McReynolds, although he did not intend to make known the name for several weeks.

At the same time the association made public a telegram for the opposition to Byrnes were stated. These reasons were summed up with the statement that Byrnes "has been absolutely consistent in oposing any and every effort to give Negro citizens the protection of the United States Constitution."

Byrnes has consistently fought passage of the federal anti-lynching bill, the statement said. In 1935, as chairman of the Senate Audit and Control Committee, he refused to permit consideration of the appropriation of $7,500 to investigate fourteen lynchings that had taken place since May, when the Senate filibuster halted action on the then pending Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill. Byrnes did this despite the fact that the Senate Judiciary Committee had reported out favorably a resolution offered by Senator Frederick Van Nuys calling for the investigation, and authorizing the expenditure of $7,500 to conduct it.

N.A.A.C.P. officials pointed out that it is not without significance that the three senators who are pressing Roosevelt to name Byrnes: Carter Glass of Virginia; Harrison, of Miss., and Albon Barkley ,of Kentucky, are without exception, opponents of federal anti-lynching legislation.

Senator Glass, the N. A. A. C. P. officials said, is the father of disfrancement laws for Negroes in Virginia, about which he has frequently boasted.

The association urged organizations and citizens to send telegrams, post cards and letters to President Roosevelt at once, urging him not to nominate Byrnes for the Supreme Court post.

The complete text of the Association's telegram to Roosevelt follows:

"We very sincerely hope that newspaper reports are incorrect that you are seriously considering the incorrect that you are seriously considering the nomination of Senator James F. Byrnes as member of United States Court to success Mr. Justice McReynolds. Senator Byrnes' record has been absolutely consistent in cpposing any and every effort to give the Negro citizens the protection of the United States Constitution. The United States Supreme Court has been the one tribunal to which minorities have been able to appeal in defense of their citizenship rights. One holding the views which Senator Byrnes has espoused on the floor of the United States Senate and elsewhere jeopardizes democracy at a time when we must put forth every effort to safeguard and extend it. We urge that Senator Byrnes or any other person sharing his views not be considered for this high post."

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
January 26, 1941

ANTILYNCHING DRIVE OUTLINED

Two-Year Program Approved By Interracial Co-operation Committee.

ATLANTA, Jan. 25.—(AP)—A two-year program calling for continuation of the campaign against lynching and consideration of the part the Negro will play in national defense received approval of the executive committee of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation here today.

Efforts will be made to see that Negroes are given proportionate representation in defense plans, committee members said, adding that both labor and defense leaders have indicated a desire that equal opportunity be given.

The campaign against lynching will again be conducted through the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

Plans were approved also for strengthening interracial organizations throughout the South, the committee expressing belief that possible social uncertainty of the future will add to the need for such groups.

The educational program will be continued through contacts with the church, colleges, and public schools.

Dr. R. L. Russell of Griffin, Ga., was elected to membership on the executive committee and the commission. Dr. Will W. Alexander of Atlanta, executive director of the commission, vice president of the Rosenwald fund, and at present executive assistant to the Council of National Defense, presided at today's session.

Asheville, N. C. Times
February 28, 1941

ANTI-LYNCHING AMENDMENT IS BEING DISCUSSED

Vandenberg Is Planning To Win Another Seat In House For Michigan.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—(UP)—Sen. Arthur H. Vandenberg, (R., Mich.) was reported today to be planning to introduce an anti-lynching amendment to the congressional reapportionment bill in an effort to win another seat in the house for his state.

A house-approved bill, seeking to change the reapportionment method to give a congressional seat to Arkansas that automatically would go to Michigan under the present system, must pass before March 4 to be effective.

Vandenberg was said to be planning to offer the anti-lynch amendment, confident that Southern senators would filibuster long enough to pass the new bill deadline.

Questioned regarding his plans, Vandenberg said:

"I will have nothing to say about the reapportionment bill until we reach it."

Meanwhile, members of the Michigan delegation in the house were to appear before the senate commerce commission in an effort to stop its approval of the bill, under which the 435th seat in the lower chamber would go to Arkansas.

The bill, passed by the house Feb 18 by an overwhelming vote after Michigan represenatives failed in an effort to recommit it, 206 to 146 would reapportion house seats under the 1940 census by the "equal proportions" formula in place of the "major fractions" method now in use.

Under the formula in the bill, the 435th and final seat in the chamber would go to Arkansas. If the "major fractions" method was approved, it would go to Michigan.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Gavagan Tells About His Lynch Bill Fight

APR 5 - 1941

More than two hundred prominent members of the Harlem Committee for the support of the Gavagan Anti-Lynch Bill and the Gavagan Anti-Poll Tax Bill met last Tuesday at the Tioga Club, 1807 Amsterdam Ave., heard Congressman Joseph Gavagan give highlights of his fight for the Anti-Lynch Bill.

He graphically recalled how he and Walter White, secretary of N.A.A.C.P. had travelled all over the country to arouse popular sentiment for the Anti-Lynch Bill. He told of his encounters with disgruntled southern Congressmen. He pledged himself to continue the fight he began years ago until the Anti-Lynch Bill and the Anti-Poll Tax Bill become laws.

APR 5 - 1941

J. Raymond Jones, chairman of the Harlem Committee outlined the aims of the committee said that the Negro people in America now feel it is time for every red blooded person to buckle down to hard work and a stiff fight.

Richard J. Thomas, secretary of the committee spoke briefly on the Anti-Poll Tax Bill, pointed out the viciousness of forcing citizens to pay a cumulative fee to exercise their rights of citizenship at the polls. He cited how in some states that because of the Poll Tax less than five percent of the people were allowed to vote and stressed the need of broadcasting



CONGRESSMAN GAVAGAN

to the country — how democracy has been denied to millions in America by the Poll Tax.

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The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

Anti-Lynching Measure Will Have To Be Aired Before Congress

JAN 17 19

NEW YORK.—Representative Joseph Gavagan, of New oYrk, introduced one of the six federal anti-lynching bills in the House of Representatives on Janaury 3, the opening day of the 77th Congress, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People reported this week.

The Gavagan bill, which is sponsored by the N.A.A.C.P., provides that the United States Department of Justice "shall cause an investigation to be made," whenever any state or government agency fails to protect victims of a lynch mob. The bill also provides civil damages for relatives of a lynch victim, to the extent of not less than $2,000 nor more than $5,000, the money to be paid by "t'he culpable governmental subdivision," chargedw ith protecting the victim. Anti-lynching bills were introduced by: Representatives Arthur W. Mitchell, Democrat, of Illinois; Joseph A. Gavagan, Democrat, of New York; U. S. Guyer, Republican of Kansas; Lee E. Geyer, Democrat, of California; Bartlett Jenkman, Republican, of Michigan, a new member, and Louis Ludlow, Democrat, of Indiana.

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Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Rep. Gavagan Introduces Lynch Bill

JAN 18 1941

NEW YORK—Representative Joseph Gavagan, of New York introduced one of the six federal anti-lynching bills in the House of Representatives on January 3, the opening day of the Seventy-seventh Congress.

The Gavagan bill, which is spon-

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

CONGRESS GETS LYNCH BILL

JAN 18 1941

Representative Joseph Gavagan, of New York, introduced two bills in the House of Representatives, last week, one dealing with Anti-lynching and the other elimination of poll tax.

The Anti-lynch Bill provides that the United States Department of Justice shall cause an investigation to be made whenever any State or Government agency fails to protect victims of a lynch mob.

The Bill also provides civil damages for relatives of a lynch victim, to the extent of not less than $2,000 nor more than $5,000, the money to be paid by the culpable Governmental sub-division charged with protecting the victim.

Other Anti-lynch Bills were introduced by Representatives Arthur W. Mitchell, Joseph A. Gavagan, U.S. Guyer, Lee E. Geyleased from the hospital where he had been confined because of his wound. He was freed on Attorney Morris' motion before the court for dismissal of the charges, without having to take the witness stand at all.

Patolman Brady and Patrolman William L. Egan, testifying at the hearing, accused the lad of being one of a gang of five who tried to hold up three white men at 112th St. and Manhattan Ave., on November 25 last day of the shooting and asserted that Hope had been shot while trying to flee.

None of the seven other men mentioned, victims or holdup men, have as yet been identified or apprehended.

The case aroused widespread interest in Harlem, being one of five such police shootings in Harlem during the past year.

Prior to the hearing, Hope, who lives with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Simeon Hope, at 1663 Madison Ave., through his counsel, had denied all charges and insisted he was just passing by when the shooting started, ran like everybody else and was struck down as he attempted to duck into an Eighth Ave. hallway.

Described as a popular young man in his neighborhood and possessor of an excellent reputation, young Hope has never before had contact with the police, it is said.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Dear Editor:

Knowing the condition of the Negro in the South, I would like for you to publish the following: "The Southern Negro's Hands In This Campaign."

JAN 4 1941

After reading and understanding the promise Senator Barkley made in the convention in Chicago when he was trying to get the support of the Colored people in this campaign, he promised that he would see that the Anti-Lynching Bill was passed. Since that time it seems that he has done everything he could to kill it. If he doesn't have time to see that the Bill is passed, he doesn't have time to stop lynching. It should be remembered that four years ago our President promised the same thing, but for the past seven years, he seems to have forgotten it. The Negro is being lynched here in the South because he is putting forth efforts so as to get equal rights. The Negro Democrats who cast a vote for the present Democratic Administration have really forgotten his black southern brother or he doesn't care anything for him.

Thomasville, Ga., Wkly. Times-Ent.
December 24, 1940

ANTI-LYNCH BILL

The anti-lynching bill is one of the most farcical things that has ever been given untold attention in congress. It is splenetic and racial in its tenor, it is unfortunate and unsound in its many phases and and it is not in conformity with a wise and sound means of accomplishing the ends sought.

In South Carolina they protected a negro and prevented a lynching, in Thomas county, they captured the negro, tried him in a short time and his execution occurred within a month. That is the best aid in keeping down lynchings in the South. The new bill would penalize the county in which lynching occurred by a fine of ten thousand dollars and there are some pains that the officers would also endure if one occurred.

There is no way to get over the idea that a ten thousand dollar fine on a county would stop lynchings, if the mob started out They would barely be among those who pay much of the taxes and they would not even think of this bar to their activity. If they are not educated to a point where personal passions can be curbed and controlled they will lynch, if there is a fine of a million dollars.

So anxious to appease some colored voters in the North congress is discussing this matter whenever the colored voters arise up and demand it. The colored congressman from Chicago now says that he is going to have congress take off Jim Crow provisions, because he was forced to ride in a passenger car on a slow train through Arkansas. He paid for the full fare but they did not allow him in the pullmans.

These racial troubles arise now and then but in the main both races are satisfied that the relationships in the south are improving and that with education and other qualifications it will be better even sooner than if left to the hands of the politicians, whose sole motive is votes.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Congress Gets Petition For Anti-Lynch Bill

2,000 Urge FDR to Use His Influence to Force Action on Measure

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WASHINGTON, July 20.—More than 2,000 persons this week urged President Roosevelt to use his influence in support of the Geyer Anti-Lynching Bill, whose sponsors have placed petitions on the Speaker's desk in order to force the bills out of the Judiciary Committee and on to the floor of the House for a vote.

JUL 21 1941

The signatures of 218 Congressmen are required on each petition before the bills can be brought to the floor, and to date less than half this number has been obtained for each bill.

The citizens who urge the President to take action signed their names to a message circulated in New York by the Young Fraternalists, representing the youth section of the International Workers Order.

The message which was sent to Washington, said:

"While anti-lynching legislation gathers dust in the pigeon-holes of Congress, thousands of Negro and white citizens, especially in the South, are in constant danger of becoming victims of this lawlessness. A federal law stopping lynching; a federal law can stop lynching."

Charleston S C News & Courier
January 7, 1941

Enough to Distress

From The Los Angeles Times, a newspaper as "reactionary" as The News and Courier, we take and reprint a brief editorial about the so-called anti-lynching bill which will again come to the front in congress.

This is the anti-Southern bill which President Roosevelt could have killed with a word at any time since March, 1933, which word he has not spoken and will not speak.

Meantime, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt may be expected to continue lobbying for the bill in cooperation with Walter White, colored man and secretary of the Society for the Advancement of the Colored People, the same citizen who insists that there were more lynchings in the United States last year than were reported by Tuskegee Institute, the colored college in Alabama which has compiled and published the accepted lynching statistics the last twenty or thirty years.

If the bill shall be brought before the senate again this year the filibuster by which it was defeated in 1938 may not be repeated—or may not be a stubborn and determined filibuster. One is not sure that Senator Byrnes, for example, will make the brave fight against it that he made three years ago. In January, 1938, he was no "Roosevelt man".

The "war emergency" may provide Southern senators with excuse to allow anything to pass. Besides, opposition to Northern negro policies might cost Southern states appropriations at this time—appropriations for national defense being the order of the day.

In Georgetown, a town of South Carolina, danger of a lynching suddenly arose three weeks ago. It followed the commission of horrible crimes by negroes. Suppose that the federal anti-lynching bill, the Walter White bill, were a law on the books and the lynching had occurred? The sheriff and other officers of Georgetown would probably have been indicted, the county would have been sued, and alleged lynchers would have been dragged to Florence, Charleston or other place of a federal court's meeting for trial.

Angry resentment would have been aroused throughout South Carolina, and ruffians in more than one spot would have beaten or killed negroes, many or most of them innocent of any offence.

In South Carolina are white ruffians. Some of them sometimes commit murder including the murder of their wives. (White men have ravished white women). It is in them that "race prejudice" has its deep seat, and it is from them that respectable leaders and newspapers have been striving to protect negroes the last seventy-three years.

The anti-lynching bill is a measure to rekindle the flames of race prejudice. Seldom now do they flare up in lynchings.

Negroes in the North hopelessly ignorant of Southern conditions and politicians cultivating the votes of negroes in crowded negro quarters of Northern cities are undoing or trying to undo the work that self-respecting white men have done with increasing success for the protection of the Southern negroes. For this the leaders of the new Democratic party are in the main responsible, and this charge we lay against them, including the highest in authority and the best of them.

The deplorable fact is that they may renew and revive the lynching evil, now all but eliminated, in the Southern states. That some of them do this with pious purpose makes the fact the more distressing.

Marshalltown Iowa Times Repub
FRIDAY JANUARY 3 1941

Anti-Lynching Bill Again

The anti-lynching bill, subject of much debate in the past and of heated controversy at times, is likely to be revived in the session of congress just convened. Continued opposition is certain, especially from members of some of the southern states which look upon the measure as a direct slap at their attitude toward the Negro.

Lynchings in the north have been far less than in the south, with colored men constituting a majority of those who have been the victims of violence. While the bill may not succeed in getting thru both houses of congress, agitation in favor of some such penalties as those proposed have had a salutary restraining effect.

There were no lynchings in 1939, and the year just closed gave promise of equaling that record until the later months, when there were five lynchings. Two were in Georgia, two in Alabama and one in Tennessee. Four of the victims were Negroes. In the lone Tennessee case it is claimed that the sole offense of the victim was because he sought information in regard methods to be pursued to gain the right to vote. Demand by Negroes for voting privileges in some of the states is an unpardonable sin.

The anti-lynching measure, known as the Gavagan bill, has caused sharp division between the two houses of congress. It has passed the house easily, but is filibustered to death in the senate and has never been permitted to come to a vote in that branch of the national legislature. Southern senators, while they profess to deplore lynchings, insist mob control is not a subject for national regulation, thereby again raising the old, old question of state rights.

The states could do something to stop lynchings if they were inclined to do so. Take Kentucky, for example. There is a statue which calls for the removal from office of any sheriffff or jailer who by negligence or connivance permits a mob to take a prisoner from his custody. There has not been a lynching in that state in 20 years, which ought to be proof of the value of the statute and convincing to the lawmakers of other states where there is real desire to protect from mob violence. The family of a victim of a lynching under the Gavagan bill would be privileged to collect damages from the local government where the lynching took place.

If the states do not adopt laws to meet the problem, eventually the national government will see fit to encroach on the cherished rights of southland commonwealths.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Late Senator James Barron 'Friend of Man'

Sponsored Anti-Lynch Bill In State Assembly

JAN 25 1941

(Reprinted from Last Week's Late Edition)

The death of ex-Senator James S. Barron recalled to old acquaintances many acts during his long public life which stamped him as a consistent friend of the underprivileged. His human sympathies were as broad as his fine culture.

One of the first acts which distinguished him as an exponent of justice and fair play was his support 25 years ago of a group of colored citizens who opposed the showing here in the theatre of Thomas Dixon's play "The Clansman," an inflamatory over-dramatization of Dixon's book bearing that title. The play bore the title "Birth of a Nation," and wherever shown in the South created bitter feeling against Negroes.

OPPOSED FILM

Mr. Barron appeared as spokesman for the group on the floor of city council in a fruitless effort to prevent the appearance of the play in Norfolk.

He supported citizens of the Huntersville-Barboursville section in obtaining sanitary improvements, including the pavement of certain streets, after this territory was incorporated within the city limits.

While Mr. Barron was serving as Police Justice he was cooperative during a drive in 1912-13 to "clean-up" the dives then operating on Queen street (now Brambleton avenue).

SPONSORED ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

One of the most notable acts of his public life was his sponsorship in the Senate in 1928 of the Virginia anti-lynching bill, which had the backing of Governor Byrd, now United States Senator. Senator Barron piloted the bill through the Senate and had considerable influence in getting the concurrence of the House. Since the passage of this law there has not been a lynching in Virginia.

After Governor Byrd had signed the bill he presented the pen to Senator Barron, who several years later at a public meeting presented it to the editor of the Journal and Guide, in whose keeping it now reposes.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
May 21, 1941

Gavagan Pushes Action On Anti-Lynching Bill

WASHINGTON, May 21—(AP)—Asserting that two recent lynchings in the South "show the need for federal legislation to curb this brutality," Representative Gavagan (D-NY) acted today to bring his anti-lynching bill before the House.

He placed a petition on the speaker's desk to discharge the Judiciary Committee from consideration of the legislation.

The petition must be signed by 218 members before the bill can be brought up for debate.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
May 22, 1941

Move Made To Revive Anti-Lynching Measure

WASHINGTON, May 21 (AP)—Asserting that two recent lynchings in the South "show the need for federal legislation to curb this brutality," Rep. Gavagan (D., N. Y.) acted today to bring his anti-lynching bill before the House.

He placed a petition on the Speaker's desk to discharge the judiciary committee from consideration of the legislation.

The petition must be signed by 218 members before the bill can be brought up for debate.

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Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

GAVAGAN OFFERS ANTI-LYNCH AND POLL TAX BILLS

JAN 18 1941

Fines and Prison Terms Provided by N. Y. Congressman

Two bills, one which would make it unlawful to require payment of poll tax in order to vote in certain elections, and another aimed at prevention of the crime of lynching, were introducd into the House of Representatives by Congressman Joseph A. Gavagan (Dem., N.Y.) last week and referred to the committee on the judiciary.

The poll tax bill provides a $1,000 fine or a year and a day's imprisonment for any one, whether or not acting under the authority of a State law or a subdivision to require a poll tax as a prerequisite for voting or registering to vote.

The bill specifically applies to any election for a President, Vice-President, Presidential elector, Senator, or member of the House of Representatives.

$5,000 Fine, Provided

The anti-lynching bill provides that any State officer who neglects or refuses to make all diligent efforts to protect a person from a lynching, who has custody of the person lynched, or fails to prosecute members of a mob shall be guilty of a felony and subject, upon conviction, to a $5,000 fine or five years' imprisonment or both.

The measure also provides that in every case the governmental subdivision held guilty shall be liable to each person injured. or to his next of kin if such injury results in death, for a sum not less than $2,000 and not more than $10,000 as monetary compensation.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
April 25, 1941

Argument for Anti-Lynching Bill

Who shall fill an unexpired term as sheriff of Barnwell county does not concern The News and Courier—the name of the governor's appointee is not remembered as these lines are written.

The proposal that the sheriff of a county in South Carolina shall be relieved of the duty to supervise the county jail does concern it.

We do not look forward with pleasure to congressmen from Harlem and other negro districts in Northern cities pointing to this proposal before the general assembly when they shall speak for the so-called "anti-lynching bill" of Walter White's organization when it shall be revived—as it will be.

They will say that it is evidence that South Carolina would make lynching easier. It might not be a sound argument, but it would be rolled under the tongue in debate by Senators Wagner and Van Nuys and others of their kind.

It would be plausible too. The sheriff is the county's chief peace officer. The jail is his stronghold, his fortress.

The late Vernon White could not have prevented the lynching of an innocent man in Spartanburg if he had been denied supervision of the county jail.

The News and Courier holds that the bill, or amendment, relating to the Barnwell sheriff would be a contribution, if adopted, to the congressmen pressing the anti-lynching bill, and it further believes that the passage of that bill would be a calamity to the negroes of the South.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

SEN. SHEPPARD BITTER LYNCH BILL FOE

APR 20 1941

WASHINGTON.—(ANP)— The death last week of Sen. Morris Sheppard, removed from the scene one of the bitterest opponents of the anti-lynch bill," according to some statements attributed to one or more of his colleagues.

It is said that former Vice President Garner had endorsed the passage of the bill in one of the cloak room unofficial sessions and was working on Sheppard to get his vote.

"We had the Negro vote in 1932, and we want it even more in 1936," the former Vice President said, "and since the Negroes want this bill passed let's give it to them."

APR 20 1941

Sheppard disagreed violently, saying to the group, "I'm... coming up for re-election this year and I can't afford to cast my vote for the bill."

Thus passes another of the old line Democrats from Texas who feared his constituency would not approve of his voting for such a measure.

APR 20 1941

There is some talk that Garner may be appointed by the governor of the state to fill the unexpired term.

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
May 8, 1941

Maybank Is Held "Right"

News And Courier Editorially Flays Legislators On Veto Matter

The following editorial, headlined "Maybank is right; the people are with him," appeared in the Charleston News and Courier:

Following denunciation of Burnet R. Maybank, governor, on the floor of the senate, as a "dictator-type fellow," that body voted 36 to 0 to over-ride his veto of a Barnwell county bill, described as a "local bill."

The house, a Barnwell man presiding, voted 97 to 0, to over-ride the veto.

Will the general assembly stop there? Following unanimously the Barnwell delegation, presumably accepting the description of Maybank as a "dictator-type of fellow," will it leave him as governor or will it impeach him?

Or. with this unanimous vote on its record, is it wanting in the guts to relieve the state of "dictatorship?"

With this unanimous vote on its record, will it resent stultified—afraid to carry its case to the only logical end?

The general assembly has cut its own cloth. Will it wallow in it?

The veto was right. The people of South Carolina will uphold the governor. If the legislature is not convinced, let it undertake impeachment. Nothing short of it is consistent with its unanimous action.

The governor is the chief executive; sheriffs are assistant executives. In its nature the office of sheriff is the same in every county. The main point in the bill is not the fee system. The point is deprivation of the sheriff's supervision of the jail. That takes from him the stronghold of his office. It strips him of the power to protect persons in his custody. It takes from him power to prevent the lynching of an innocent man, as Sheriff White prevented it in Spartanburg.

The federal advocates of the anti-lynching bill will roll this legislative action under their tongues. Wagner and Van Nuys will gloat over it. They will proclaim it an act to make lynching easy.

The governor's duty is to fill vacancies when they occur. He alone is responsible. He cannot shift responsibility. He is under no more obligation to consult a county delegation than to consult other citizens. Many a governor has appointed men to office without consulting legislators. County legislators are not belted earls.

The unanimous action of the general assembly is a direct, plain declaration that in effect the general assembly should take over the duties of the governor and make him a figurehead.

It is a direct, plain assault on the constitution.

If the general assembly has the guts, it will try to rid the state of a "dictator-type" in the governor's office. Let it try. It won't. Having made its gesture, it will lie down. And wallow in the garments of its own cut.

In this matter, South Carolina is with Maybank. They knew it. They won't dare to go farther.

Times-Picayune
New Orleans, La

URGES ANTI-LYNCH BILL BEFORE HOUSE

(The Associated Press)

Washington, May 21.—Asserting that two recent lynchings in the South "show the need for federal legislation to curb this brutality," Representative Gavagan, Democrat, New York, acted today to bring his anti-lynching bill before the House.

He placed a petition on the speaker's desk to discharge the judiciary committee from consideration of the legislation.

The petition must be signed by 218 members before the bill can be brought up for debate.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

While the Anti-Lynching Bill Is Strangled

While the Roosevelt Administration prates of "democracy," A. C. Williams, a 22-year-old Negro, was lynched in Florida yesterday, in defiance of every democratic tradition upon which the country was founded.

It was a particularly fiendish murder, with the usual "excuse" of a rape charge. Williams was first seized from the jail, his body filled with ten bullet holes; then he was found, placed in an ambulance from which he was taken again and put an end to. At no time was there resistance by the sheriff who cynically claims that none of the mob was identifiable, with the implication that nothing will be done about it.

Meantime, the anti-lynching bill is blocked in the Senate by the Administration and the Republican war coalition. And Senator Pepper, of Florida, is one of the leading whoopers for war and convoys at the behest of the White House.

Lynching is the most horrible form of fascist discrimination against the Negro people, which is being increased by the counterfeit "defense" program and its war agitation. Labor and all democratic citizens can join with the Negro people in demanding federal investigation and punishment of the lynchers, and can insist upon passage of the anti-lynch and anti-poll tax bills.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
July 1, 1941

Double Dealing with Negroes

One reads a vast quantity of stuff about "anti-lynching bills" and of the Roosevelt administration's objections to discrimination against negroes in the industries, but how does it happen that this administration gives the tens of thousands of federal jobs, a few of the humblest excepted, to white people in the Southern states? Of course The News and Courier entirely agrees with the Roosevelt administration in this policy; it merely protests against the patent hypocrisy with which it handles this "negro question" in the South. We do not think that it should give the responsible offices to the negroes in the South—but why does it fool the poor negroes? Of 300,000 federal jobs in the South, how many have been given to negroes?

OHIO'S MOB VIOLENCE ACT

OR ANTI-LYNCHING LAW LEADS THE COUNTRY IN EFFECTIVE LEGISLATION

Against The Mob And Lynch-Murder—Three Years Work Of A Member Of The Race—Also His Ohio Civil Rights Law.

Our mob-violence or anti-lynching bill was introduced in the Ohio legislature in 1894 and re-introduced in 1896. It took the Hon. Harry C. Smith, editor of **The Gazette**, just three years to secure its enactment into law. The Ohio Supreme Court has several times upheld the constitutionality of the law and it has been very effective. Illinois, Pennsylvania and New Jersey have followed Ohio's lead and enacted mob violence or anti-lynching laws which are copies of our Ohio law. Several other northern states and at least one border state (Kentucky) have also enacted anti-lynching laws in recent years. The Ohio law follows:

MOBS

The Gazette SEP 13 1941 Cleveland, O. Ohio

September 13th

Section
6278. "Mob" and "lynching" defined
6279. "Serious injury" defined
6280. Damages in case of assault.
6281 Damages in case of lynching.
6282. Damages recoverable by legal representative of victim of lynching.
6283. Person suffering death or injury by mob trying to lynch another.
6284. Limitations of action.
6285. Order to include recovery and costs in tax levy.
6286. Guardian's custody, etc., fees.
6287. County's right of action against member of mob.
6288. County's right of action against another county.
6289. Non-relief from prosecution.

Section 6278. A collection of people assembled for an unlawful purpose and intending to do damage or injury to any one, or pretending to exercise correctional power over other persons by violence and without authority of law, shall be deemed a "mob" for the purpose of this chapter. An act of violence by a mob upon the body of any person shall constitute a "lynching" within the meaning of this chapter. (93 v. 161 2.)

Section 6279. The term "serious injury", for the purpose of this chapter, shall include such injury as permanently or temporarily disables the person receiving it from earning a livelihood by manual labor. (93 v. 161 3.)

SEP 13 1941

Section 6280. A person taken from officers of justice by a mob, and assaulted with whips, clubs, missiles or in any other manner, may recover, as hereafter provided, a sum not to exceed one thousand dollars as damages from the county in which the assault is made. (93 v. 161 4.)

Section 6281. A person assaulted and lynched by a mob may recover, from the county in which such assault is made, a sum not to exceed five hundred dollars; or, if the injury received therefrom is serious, a sum not exceeding one thousand dollars; or, if such injury result in permanent disability to earn a livelihood by manual labor, a sum not to exceed five thousand dollars. (93 v. 162 5.)

Section 6282. The legal representative, of a person dying from injuries received from lynching by a mob, may recover of the county in which such injury occurred, a sum not to exceed five thousand dollars damages for such unlawful killing. Such sum shall be applied to the maintenance of the family and education of the minor children of such person so lynched, if any survive him, until such children are of legal age, and share and share alike, the widow receiving an amount equal to a child's share. If there be no widow or minor children surviving such decedent, such sum shall be distributed among the next of kin according to the laws of the distribution of the personality of an intestate. Such sum so recovered shall not be a part of the estate of such person so lynched, nor be subject to any of his liabilities. (93 v. 162 6.)

Section 6283. A person suffering death or injury from a mob attempting to lynch another person shall come within the provisions of this chapter. He or his legal representatives shall have a like right of action as one purposely injured or killed by such a mob. (93 v. 162 6.)

Section 6284. Action for the recoveries provided for in this chapter must be commenced, within two years from the date of such lynching, in any court having original jurisdiction of an action for damages for malicious assault. (93 v. 162 7.)

Section 6285. An order to the commissioners of a county, against which such recovery is had, to include it with the costs of action, in the next succeeding tax levy for such county, shall be a part of the judgment in every such case. (93 v. 162 8.)

Section 6286. If the decedent so lynched has minor children surviving him, the fund shall be turned over to a regularly appointed guardian. Such guardian shall administer such fund under the direction of the probate judge, allowing not more than five hundred dollars for counsel fees in the action for such recovery. (93 v. 162 9.)

Section 6287. The county, in which a lynching occurs may recover the amount of a judgment and costs against it in favor of the legal representatives of a person killed or seriously injured by a mob from any of the persons composing such mob. A person present, with hostile intent, at such lynching shall be deemed a member of the mob and be liable to such action. (93 v. 162 10.)

Section 6288. If a mob carries a prisoner into another county, or comes from another county to commit violence on a prisoner brought from such county for safekeeping, the county in which the lynching is committed may recover the amount of the judgment and costs from the county from which the mob came unless there was contributory negligence on the part of officials of such county in failing to protect such prisoner or disperse such mob. (93 v. 163 11.)

Section 6289. This chapter shall not relieve a person concerned in such lynching from prosecution for homicide or assault for engaging therein. (93 v. 163 12.)

OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS LAW.

Upon the request of many readers of **The Gazette** we print below the text of the Hon. Harry C. Smith's Ohio Civil Rights law which the editor had enacted while a member of the 71st General Assembly, in 1894.

The General Code of Ohio:

SEC. 12940. Whoever, being the proprietor or his employee, keeper or manager of an inn, restaurant, eating house, barber shop, public conveyance by air, land, or water, theater, store or other place for the sale of merchandise, or any other place of public accomodation or amusement, denies to a citizen, except for reasons applicable alike to all citizens and regardless of color or race, the full enjoyment of the accomodations, advantages, facilities or privileges thereof, or, being a person who aids or incites the such offense was committed. denial thereof, shall be fined not less than fifty dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or imprisoned not less than thirty days nor more than ninety days, or both. pay not less than fifty dollars nor more than five hundred dollars to the person aggrieved thereby to be recovered in any court of competent jurisdiction in the county where This law has repeatedly been held constitutional and good law by the Ohio Supreme court. The trouble is our people will not use it as often as they should, but expect it to do for them what they should and must do for themselves, under it in the courts.

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37i-1941

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Congress Gets 6 Lynch Bills

JAN 1 1 1941

Four Measures Introduced by Democrats and Two by Republicans

WASHINGTON

Six antilynching bills were tossed into the legislative hopper in the House on the opening day of the Seventy-seventh Congress.

They were introduced by Representatives Arthur W. Mitchell, Democrat, of Illinois; Joseph A. Gavagan, Democrat, of New York; U. S. Guyer, Republican, of Kansas; Lee E. Geyer, Democrat, of California; Bartlett Jonkman, Republican, of Michigan, a new member, and Louis Ludlow, Democrat, of Indiana.

The Gavagan bill is sponsored by the NAACP. It passed the House on January 10 and was favorably reported to the Senate on April 8, but was never called up for debate.

Hits Local Officials

Under its provisions the Department of Justice is empowered to investigate lynchings wherever there is evidence of delinquency on the part of local officials. Local officials who are remiss in their duty in restraining a mob or bringing lynchers to the bar of justice would be subject to punishment.

County or city officers whose peace officers or other agents charged with law enforcement aid the lynchers or refuse to oppose the mob would be liable in damages to the victim of mob violence or the next of kin of such victim.

The Guyer, Geyer and Jonkman bills are similar to the Gavagan bill.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Anti-Lynch Poll Tax Bills on House Calendar

JAN 2 4 1941

In the new Congress, the Geyer anti-poll tax bill is H. R. 1042, and the Gavagan anti-lynch bill is H. R. 971, according to an announcement by the International Labor Defense yesterday. The ILD urged all of its members, friends and supporters to wire their Representatives urging them to see that the bills are speedily placed upon the calendar and passed in the Lower House.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

6 Anti-Lynch Bills Sent To 76th Congress

JAN 1 1 1941

Mitchell Among Those Presenting New Measures

(Editorial on Page 8)

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JAN 1 1 1941

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JAN 1 1 1941

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Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

A Chance To Show We Mean Business

JAN 1 1 1941

WITH the opening of the 77th Congress, broadminded American legislators placed on the agenda six anti-lynching bills offering the United States government six opportunities to set an example for the rest of the bigoted and violent world by ridding its closet of its number one skeleton, the lynch spectre.

That the world today stands in dire need of some abstract example of justice and fair play to minorities and smaller ethnic groups is taken for granted. When Mr. Roosevelt, in an address to the 77th Congress on the "state of the Union," pointed out the need for the United States to become the spearhead for Democratic reconstruction of world concepts he was wildly cheered by our legislators. But how sincere were these men who make the laws? We'll find out when they are offered the opportunity to vote on one of these anti-lynching bills. If they are big enough to say to Dictators Hitler, Mussolini, and Stalin: "We here in America are willing to rid our nation of any sores of injustice before we tackle the problem of cleaning up the world and making it safe for Democracy."

JAN 1 4 1941

Any such declaration, backed up by action that will unmistakably serve notice on the rest of the world that we are sincerely determined is our cause and are not merely making words to hear ourselves talk, is likely to make a deep impression.

So long as we talk fairly, as the President did, and then continue to tolerate, in our own society, acts of moral and legal degeneration like lynchings, we run the risk of having our foreign influence considerably weakened. Our enemies abroad will think we're bluffing and our friends will distrust us.

Imagine this situation: Two big bullies living next door to each other. Both find a timid or weak youngster running around the neighborhood and both decide to beat the two weaklings up. So both begin to exercise on the weaker youngster all of the tricks of torture, discrimination, repression, domination and physical violence imaginable.

After a while, tiring of his sport, one bully looks across the fence at the other and begins to bellow, in righteous indignation, against the criminal acts of the other bully in beating up his defenseless weakling. How much influence do you suppose the first bully would have on the conduct of his fellow criminal?

His only chance to contribute anything in the way of guidance, would be to prove his own reform by bestowing justice and liberty on his own victim. This America can do by outlawing the lynch evil.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

DEMOCRAT TO PUSH ANTI- LYNCH BILL

MAY 22 1941

WASHINGTON, May 21—(AP)—Asserting that two recent lynchings in the South "show the need for federal legislation to curb this brutality," Representative Gavagan (D., Ky.) acted Wednesday to bring his anti-lynching bill before the House.

He placed a petition on the speaker's desk to discharge the judiciary committee from consideration of the legislation.

The petition must be signed by 218 members before the bill can be brought up for debate.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

The People's Sentiments Are Being Felt

MAR 4 1941

• To an ever increasing extent, the sentiment of the American people against the war-dictator bill is being felt in the United States Senate.

MAR 4 1941

Sen. Norris, who goes all down the line with the Administration's war program including the so-called lend-lease bill, has now come out in favor of an amendment banning a second American Expeditionary Force. In the face of the fact that President Roosevelt has let it be known that he does not want the slightest hitch to sending American boys to foreign trenches, Norris' action is some gauge of the power of people's pressure.

But it's the whole bill which threatens to plunge the country completely into the imperialist conflict, and the so-called amendments which are being put forward are merely sugar to put across the poisonous pill. Yet, if labor and the people can compel some of the 100 per centers for the measure to back up to any extent, it is a sign that the whole bill can be defeated.

On a par with the various demagogic amendments is the argument of Sen. "Poll Tax" Connally of Texas that all discussion against the bill is a filibuster. Sen. Connally, who has talked for hours in a lynch filibuster against the anti-lynching bill, is trying to capture the democratic sentiment of the people. The difference is that in the discussion of the war-dictator bill the people have an opportunity to make their majority wishes against the bill felt as against the Administration minority who are trying to railroad it through. While in the discussion of the anti-lynch bill, the Connallys and Pat Harrisons talk for weeks to prevent a measure passing which the people are overwhelmingly in favor of.

MAR 4 1941

The effort to shut off discussion of the war-dictator measure is plainly intended to block the democratic wishes of people who don't want to enter the imperialist carnage into which this bill would place them totally. But it is clear that the people cannot rely upon a Norris amendment, or upon any other forces who agree with the Roosevelt war program, while differing on minor tactics. Renewed protests from labor and the people can defeat this war-dictator bill in its entirety.

Southern News almanac
Birmingham, Ala.

Florida Lynching Cited In Urging Anti-Lynch Law

The recent two-day lynching of A. C. Williams, 22-year-old Negro near Quincy, Florida, is cited by the National Negro Congress as an example of the urgency of passing the federal anti-lynching bill.

Arrested early Sunday, May 11, and charged with raping a white girl, Williams was taken from the Gadsden County jail by a mob of whites late that night after his captors had forced Deputy Sheriff Dan Davis to turn over his prisoner. Davis was locked in an adjoining cell by the mob. Suffering from severe bullet wounds, Williams, according to Sheriff M. P. Luten, escaped from the mob and came back to town the next day. Luten said he placed the victim in an ambulance, without police protection, and sent him to Tallahassee for medical treatment. According to the sheriff, the mob waylaid the ambulance driver, five or six miles out from Quincy, dragged the stricken man from the machine and riddled his body with bullets. Sheriff Luten said he could not identify the mobsters.

According to records of the International Labor Defense the youth is the fourth lynching victim of 1941. The others are Oscar Hambrick, who was lynched in Atlanta, Georgia, March 30; Felix Hall, army volunteer, whose body, clad in uniform, was found hanging from a tree near Fort Benning, Georgia, March 28, and Robert Melker, lynched in Cherryville, N. C., April 20.

One Southern progressive said "This lynching occurred in the domain of administration supporter Senator Claude Pepper. Senator Pepper recently spoke out for sending troops to Africa to 'defend democracy'."

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
December 5, 1941

Predicament of a P. C.

Louis ("Lepke") Buchalter, who, from the ublic journals of the day, we take to be prominent citizen of New York city, and he most powerful industrial racketeer in e city's history", has been convicted of urder and sentenced to death, but an apal will be taken and "many months" will apse before a decision shall be handed wn.

Two of Lepke's mates have also been senced to death, and Lepke is believed to ve ordered the deaths of many rival gangers, extortion victims and actual or potenl witnesses against him.

This citizen of New York has been pracing his profession a long time, and his nviction "is a goal which the police and variety of prosecutors have sought for ore than ten years".

Had this New York P. C. been the head a gang operating in South Carolina and itting to death numbers of persons in a riod of ten years and longer, they would ve been described as lynchers, however gang in South Carolina or in the South s to this time adopted and practiced lynchg as a profession.

Our information, or impression, is that, the event of the enactment of Senator agner's anti-lynching bill, prominent New rkers of the Lepke cult will be exempt om its provisions. One of the requireents in the New York definition of a uthern lynching is that it shall be done a mob performing somewhat openly and with invitation to the neighbors to attend the show. Anyway, Southern lynchings are usually of that kind. They are denounced in New York because they are nearly always in a Jim Crow category.

When a gang kills another man and employs the methods of assassins, shooting him in the back or slitting his throat when he is not looking, it cannot be thought of as a lynching. A lynching is a crude affair, carried out in a clumsy and vulgar manner.

One learns from the newspapers of New York that a number of negroes in Harlem have organized and acquired the arts of slaughtering persons secretly, though it is not intimated that they conform to the accepted standards of lynchers, South or West.

That Louis ("Lepke") Buchalter has been the most powerful industrial racketeer in New York in the city's history and, after ordering a numerous assortment of murders and assassinations, has escaped punishment ten years, establishes his title as a Prominent Citizen.

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Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

JAN 9 1941

By E. WASHINGTON RHODES

THINGS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

WHEN one is confined to bed there is opportunity to think clearly which the hurry and rush of a busy day make impossible. Questions arise and demand to be answered. I realize that most people like comics (I read them daily), to hard, cold, brutal facts. But life must be lived; and regardles of how much we prefer the light to the more solid mental diet, it is necessary to tackle the realities of life once ever so often. What one thing should colored Americans sacrifice, work, toil, struggle, fight and be willing to die for during 1941? What one thing should cause all colored Americans to join hands and act unitedly to obtain?



RHODES

I thought about an Anti-Lynching Bill. The crime of lynching is a serious detriment to the peace and happiness of 15 million colored Americans. It is a black eye to the much-tooted American democracy. That is something worth fighting to stop. Then there is disfranchisement, contrary to the sacred Constitution, of millions of citizens. The highest officers of government prate about defending democratic principles even with our blood, yet freeze tighter than a clam concerning the flagrant disregard of basic democratic principles. This, too, is worth fighting to change.

Segregation in all of its hellishness is the most damnable system ever conceived by bigots to oppress, humiliate and subjugate men of other races. It is practiced everywhere the white man has gained ascendency. In America it is the keystone of all the wickedness outside of hell. In the northern states it is a sinister influence, something like the soothing purr of a cat. But like the cat, the claws of discrimination are hidden beneath the padded feet. It reaches its magnitude in the southern states, where jim crow cars and separate schools cause colored Americans to wallow in filth and grow into manhood as illiterate as oysters. There is something which should force colored Americans to fight; and it is a condition which should choke every orator when he shouts about "the democratic way of life."

But greater than all these sins, which should force American white men to seek the "mourner's bench" to get his soul saved, is the custom which denies colored Americans the opportunity to work. It is almost unbelievable that one group of American citizens would deliberately attempt to starve another group of citizens. But it is true. Americans shed crocodile tears about the starving Chinese and Belgians; they mourn about the hardships of the Polish and British people; yet right here on their own doorsteps they deliberately force millions of citizens to have "shrunken bellies." My God, what are white Americans thinking about? Is it possible that they actually do not think of colored Americans as human beings with "bellies" to feed and souls to save?

My conclusion is that the biggest single thing for which colored Americans must tighten their belts and fight is jobs. And it is a fight in which the masses must join. I believe that one of the reasons for the rotten attitude shown colored Americans by the dominant group is that colored Americans have been too meek. This meekness has been interpreted by the majority as inferiority. Because colored Americans have accepted an inferior status, the oppressors think this means they are satisfied. In 1941 it may be wise to change the method. At least, let us prove that we are not satisfied.

JAN 9 1941

(The ideas expressed in the above column do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of this newspaper.—Editor's Note.)

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

MITCHELL INTRODUCES ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

JAN 17 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C.,—On the opening day of the 77th United States Congress, there were six anti-lynching bills presented in the House of Representatives Jan. 3. First among these bills was that presented by Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell, representative from the First Illinois District, whose bill sought to make lynching a federal offense. The bill also provides for civil damages to relatives of the lynch victims.

JAN 17 1941

Others introducing similar bills were: Joseph Gavagan, Democrat, New York; U. S. Guyer, Republican, Kansas; Lee E. Geyer, Democrat, California; Bartlett Jonkman, Republican, Michigan; Louis Ludlow, Democrat, Indiana.

It is understood that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is backing the bill introduced by Joseph A. Gavagan of New York.

371-1941

WHITE PRESS SOUTHERN

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6733

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
February 6, 1941

In Support of Wadsworth

While The News and Courier is without sympathy for the position of Senator Burton K. Wheeler in respect of the international crisis, it is not interested in the "feud" between President Roosevelt and the senator. The manner of its conduct does not engage The News and Courier's admiration for either party.

More nearly representing in Washington the opinions of The News and Courier is James Wadsworth, Jr., representative of an upstate New York district, a state rights Republican, who votes against such measures as the "anti-lynching" or anti-Southern bill upon which President Roosevelt is destitute of opinion. Mr. Wadsworth, at this time, and a long time, has spoken for the kind of "Democracy" to which The News and Courier adheres with more consistency than do Messrs. Frank Hague, "Eddie" Flynn, Alben Barkley, Harry Hopkins and the First Lady.

Inasmuch as Representative Wadsworth has no jobs to give out in South Carolina, we despair of making converts to our view, however he is the kind of friend that South Carolina will have in time of its greatest need.

Representative Wadsworth, an old soldier, is supporting the policy of President Roosevelt in respect of international affairs. The News and Courier is supporting Representative Wadsworth. We wish that President Roosevelt might forget his feud with a senator who voted for him and, with The News and Courier, follow the lead of Mr. Wadsworth.

Editor's Note:
Filmed title pages only
of these resolutions

77TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 111

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 1941

Mr. MITCHELL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To assure to persons within the jurisdiction of every State the equal protection of the laws, and to punish the crime of lynching.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) if any officer, agent, or employee of any State or governmental subdivision thereof shall have any person in his custody by virtue of his power or authority as such officer, agent, or employee, and shall, without lawful justification or excuse, suffer or permit such person to be taken from his custody and injured or put to death or to be unlawfully injured or put to death while in his custody, the said State shall be deemed to have denied to the said person

77TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 971

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 1941

Mr. GAVAGAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To assure to persons within the jurisdiction of every State due process of law and equal protection of the laws, and to prevent the crime of lynching.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the provisions of this Act are enacted in exercise of the power of Congress to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States and for the purpose of better assuring by the several States under said amendment equal protection and due process of law to all persons charged with or suspected or convicted of any offense within their jurisdiction.

SEC. 2. Any assemblage of three or more persons which

77TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 974

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 1941

Mr. GUYER of Kansas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To assure to persons within the jurisdiction of every State the equal protection of the laws, and to punish the crime of lynching.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That whenever any criminal prosecution shall have been instituted or any warrant of arrest shall have been issued, or any arrest shall have been made, or attempted, with the purpose and intent of criminal prosecution, in any State court, against any person within the jurisdiction of the State, whether he be a citizen of the United States or not, and such person shall appeal, as hereinafter provided, for the protection of the Government of the United States upon the

77TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1023

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 1941

Mr. GEYER of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To assure to persons within the jurisdiction of every State due process of law and equal protection of the laws, and to prevent the crime of lynching.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the provisions of this Act are enacted in exercise of the power of Congress to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States and for the purpose of better assuring by the several States under said amendment equal protection and due process of law to all persons charged with or suspected or convicted of any offense within their jurisdiction.

77TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1027

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 1941

Mr. JONKMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

For the better assurance of the protection of persons within the several States from mob violence and lynching, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the provisions of this Act are enacted in exercise of the power of Congress to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of the fourteenth amendment of the Constitution of the United States and for the purpose of better assuring under said amendment protection to the lives and persons of citizens of the United States and equal protection of the laws and due process of law to all persons within the jurisdiction of the several States. A State shall

77TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1032

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 1941

Mr. LUDLOW introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To define the crime of lynching, to prescribe punishment therefor, and to authorize the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate the facts in connection with lynchings.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) it shall be unlawful for any person to move or travel from one State into another State for the purpose of aiding or abetting the lynching of any person.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to send by telephone, telegraph, or radio, or through the mails, any communication which urges or invites any person to aid or abet the lynching of any person.

(c) As used in this section the term "States" means

77TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1766

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 10, 1941

Mr. CLASON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

For the better assurance of the protection of persons within the several States from mob violence and lynching, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the provisions of this Act are enacted in exercise of the power of Congress to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of the fourteenth amendment of the Constitution of the United States and for the purpose of better assuring under said amendment protection to the lives and persons of citizens of the United States and equal protection of the laws and due process of law to all persons within the jurisdiction of the several States. A State shall be deemed to

77TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2293

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 1941

Mr. POWERS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

For the better assurance of the protection of persons within the several States from mob violence and lynching, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the provisions of this Act are enacted in exercise of the power of Congress to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of the fourteenth amendment of the Constitution of the United States and for the purpose of better assuring under said amendment protection to the lives and persons of citizens of the United States and equal protection of the laws and due process of law to all persons within the jurisdiction of the several States. A State shall

77TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6809

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 18, 1942

Mr. CELLER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

For the better assurance of the protection of persons within the several States from mob violence and lynching, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the provisions of this Act are enacted in exercise of the power of Congress to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of the fourteenth amendment of the Constitution of the United States and for the purpose of better assuring under said amendment protection to the lives and persons of citizens of the United States and equal protection of the laws and due process of law to all persons within the jurisdiction of the several States. A State shall be

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Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

LYNCHERS ASSIST NAZIS, NAACP TELLS PRESIDENT

MAY 24 1941

NEW YORK.—The lynchers of A. C. Williams at Quincy, Fla., on May 12, gave aid to the Nazis and betrayed their country, declared the NAACP to President Roosevelt in a letter registering a protest against the crime.

After voicing its protest and asking for positive action by the President and the Department of Justice, the letter declared:

"We are concerned with lynching as it relates to the aims of our national defense effort. You have said that every man, woman and child has a stake in this effort . . . You have pictured the struggle as one to preserve the democratic freedoms against the assault of the forces of oppression, brutality and death.

"In this immense effort our country is weakened morally and physically by the lynchers who kill at their whim, and by officers of the law who make no effort to protect their prisoners or to arrest the lynchers. Into the hands of Virginio Gayda and Paul Joseph Goebbels the Florida mob and all other mobs give thrust the answer to America's protestations and actions in the international conflict.

"A pronouncement from the Chief Executive on this crime would hearten those Americans who abhor lynching and who stand defenseless before the gibes of those who regard our country's defense philosophy as hypocritical."

MAY 24 1941

sault on a 12-year-old white girl. The New York Times, May 14 reported that four masked men armed with pistols took Williams from the country jail after compelling Dan Davis, an officer to open the cell doors.

In a release printed Sunday Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, was credited with saying four persons were lynched in this country this year.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Five Lynchings, NAACP Reveals

New Technique Used—NAACP

DEC 30 1941

NEW YORK—(SNS) — Five known lynchings and two fatal attacks on Negroes in Texas courtrooms marked the United States' record of mob violence for 1941, the NAACP announced this week.

The NAACP sees the beginning of a new lynching technique in the killing of Bob White in a courtroom at Conroe, Texas, and of Mott Flournoy in a Lufkin, Texas court by allegedly aggrieved husbands of so-called rape victims. Bob White was shotr by W. S. Cochrane, wealthy Texas landon trial for his life for the third time. Flournoy was stabbed in the chest by Roy Morehouse, November 23.

DEC 30 1941

Other known lynchings recorded by the NAACP in conjunction with Tuskegee Institute, Ala., occurred at Fort Benning, Ga.; Quincy, Florida; Blakely, Ga., Georgetown, S. C., and in Gaston County, near Cherryville, N. C.

In Georgetown, S. C., five white youths were found guilty by a coroner's jury for killing Bruce Tisdale, a local mill worker, after a fight. The verdict was reported February 22.

On April 3, Private Felix Hall, a colored volunteer was found hanging to a tree, clad in the uniform of the U. S. Army, in a wooded section of Fort Benning. The NAACP and the Negro press demanded investigation and punishment of the guilty persons, but the last report of any action was early in May when the War Department was said to have been making an investigation. There has been no report of the results of the "investigation."

DEC 30 1941

The mob rode in Gaston County, N. C., April 13, when Robert Walker was shot to death in his home by four men after an altercation with a white man.

Three white fellow employes of Robert Sapp, a mechanic's helper in Blakely, Florida, took him a short distance out of town and beat him with a club and a heavy piece of machine belting. On May 12, he died from "pneumonia." Sapp was charged with having stolen money from the safe of his employers.

On May 13, A. C. Williams, 22, of Quincy, Fla. was found dead on a creek bridge, his body riddled with bullets from a band of masked men. Williams had been arrested for an alleged attempted assault on a 12-year-old white girl. The New York Times, May 14 reported that four masked men armed with pistols took Williams from the country jail after compelling Dan Davis, an officer to open the cell doors.

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

Courtroom Lynchings Seen As New Dread for Negro In 5 Mob Slayings of 1941

JAN 9 - 1942

JAN 9 1942

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JAN 9 - 1942

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Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

New Lynching Technic Seen in Tex. Slayings

JAN 3 - 1942

NEW YORK.—Five known lynchings and two fatal attacks on colored men in Texas courtrooms marked the United States record of mob violence for 1941, the NAACP announced this week.

The courtroom slaying of Bob White, who was shot to death by the husband of his alleged victim in Conroe, Tex., and that of Mott Flournoy, who was stabbed to death by the allegedly aggrieved husband of the woman he was accused of attacking, have been pointed out by the NAACP as a new lynching technique.

Victims Listed

Other known lynchings reported by the NAACP in conjunction with Tuskegee Institute are:

Bruce Tisdale, mill worker, killed by five white youths after a fight at Georgetown, S.C., February;

Pvt. Felix Hall, army volunteer, found hanging to a tree in a wooded section of Fort Benning, April;

Robert Walker, shot to death by four men after an altercation with a white man in Gaston County, N.C., April;

Robert Sapp, beaten by three white fellow employers at Blakely, Fla., for the alleged theft of money. Died of "pneumonia," May;

JAN 3 - 1942

A. C. Williams, found on a creek bridge near Quincy, Fla., riddled with bullets fired by a band of masked men for the alleged attempted assault of a 12-year-old white girl, May.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Lynchers Discover New Technique During 1941

JAN 3 - 1942

NEW YORK—Five known lynchings and two fatal attacks on Negroes in Texas courtrooms marked the U. S. record of mob violence for 1941, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced this week.

The NAACP sees the beginning of a new lynching technique in the killing of Bob White in a courtroom at Conroe, Texas, and of Mott Flournoy in a Lufkin, Texas court by allegedly aggrieved husbands of so-called rape victims.

Bob White was shot by W. S. Cochrane, wealthy Texas landowner, June 10, while White was on trial for his life for the third time. Flournoy was stabbed in the chest by Roy Morehouse, November 23.

Other known lynchings recorded by the NAACP in conjunction with Tuskegee Institute, Ala., occured at Fort Benning, Ga.; Quincy, Fla.; Blakely, Ga., Georgetown, S. C., and in Gaston county, near Cherryville, N. C.

JAN 3 - 1942

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JAN 3 - 1942

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Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Technique Explained

JAN 3 - 1942

Attacks in Courtrooms In Texas Cited By Report by N. A. A. C. P.

Five known lynchings and two fatal attacks in Texas courtrooms marked the United States record of mob violence for 1941, the N. A. A. C. P. announced this week.

The N. A. A. C. P. sees the beginning of a new lynching technique in the killing of Bob White in a courtroom at Conroe, Texas, and of Mott Flournoy in a Lufkin, Texas court by allegedly aggrieved husbands of so-called rape victims. Bob White was shot by W. S. Cochrane, wealthy Texas landowner, June 10, when White was on trial for his life for the third time. Flournoy was stabbed in the chest by Roy Morehouse, November 23.

Other known lynchings recorded by the N. A. A. C. P. in conjunction with Tuskegee Institute, Ala., occurred at Fort Benning, Ga.; Quincy, Fla.; Blakely, Ga.; Georgetown, S. C., and in Gaston County, near Cherryville, N. C.

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Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

NAACP Records Five Lynchings, 2 Murders For '41

JAN 3 - 1942

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JAN 3 - 1942

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JAN 3 - 1942

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Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

JUDGE LYNCH HELD PUBLIC COURT FIVE TIMES DURING PAST YEAR; NEW "LEGAL" PROCEDURE MAKES DEBUT

JAN 3 - 1942

Lone Star State Gives Nation Latest Type of Courtroom Condoned Murder In Two Gruesome Instances.

JAN 3 - 1942

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JAN 3 - 1942

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Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

See New Technique in Courtroom Killings Of 2 Texans on Trial

JAN 2 - 1942

Tuskegee Records Show Only Four; Report 19 Instances of Officers Of the Law Preventing Lynching

JAN 2 - 1942

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JAN 2 - 1942

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Philadelphia, Pa.

New Lynching Technique Seen In Review Of 1941's Mob Crimes

JAN 3 - 1942

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Youths Guilty

In Georgetown, S. C., five white youths were found guilty by a coroner's jury for killing Bruce Tisdale, a local mill worker, after a fight. The verdict was reported February 22.

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JAN 3 - 1942

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Killed By Workmen

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JAN 3 - 1942

Things then began to happen. The NAACP heard of the case and immediately began an investigation, resulting in the case being turned over to the FEPC, which in turn solicited the aid of Judge William Hastie of the war department with the net result that all three agencies are bending every effort to see that justice is done.

According to the NAACP attorney, Leon A. Ransome, Mr. Derrick did not seek this position. The War Department, in casting about for proficient men in the field, heard of Derrick and sent for him to come in on a job as radio engineer. They then discovered his unusual ability and made the second offer at a higher rate of pay, which would take Mr. Derrick from post to post throughout the country making installations of the most recent developments in radio which bring him additional compensation.

Excellent Scholars

A native of Alabama, Mr. Derrick received his preliminary training at Alabama A. and M. College, coming to Howard where he maintained an "A" average during the entire four years in which he took engineering. He was graduated in 1939. Since that time, he has been variously employed and at present has 15 army contracts now to complete which he had been awarded on a competitive basis.

JAN 3 - 1942

It is alleged by the investigating agencies that his rejection was solely on account of color and after he had talked with the personnel officer in the War Department, he was advised that he had "neither sufficient training nor experience to qualify for the position," despite the fact that he had been told differently and offered an even better post than at first presented.

JAN 3 - 1942

The NAACP came ino the case and took it up directly with the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice. This was when the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War was called in.

Position Unusual

The position is unusual and one which requires extreme technical training. There are few radio engineers in the army capable of doing the work Mr. Derrick had been expected to perform and although army officials were accepting him at first, the matter of color arose, despite the repeated pointing out to personnel men of the President's Executive Order 8802, which forbids discrimination on account of color.

It is reported that the personnel officer after finding out Mr. Derrick was colored, immediately wrote across his application blank, "not qualified in any way" or words to that effect.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

NAACP Sees New Lynch Technique In Courtroom Killings; Reports Five Known Lynchings For 1941

JAN 3 - 1942

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JAN 3 - 1942

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6764

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Highway Patrolmen On Duty As Talladega Negro Goes On Trial

FEB 24 1941

Other Officers Present As Suspect In Killing Faces Charge In One Of Crimes

BY TOM ABERNATHY

TALLADEGA, Ala.—In a courtroom guarded by 10 Alabama State Highway patrolmen, deputy sheriffs and Talladega city officers, Julius Jackson, undersized Sylacauga Negro, went to trial here Monday for the shotgun slaying last December of Leamen Shields of near Sycamore.

Jackson also is charged with highway robbery and with a criminal assault on the person of Shields' woman companion on the night of the crime. He will be tried on those charges later, officers said.

Circuit Judge R. B. Carr said he asked for the squad of highway patrolmen, who searched all male spectators as they entered the courtroom.

FEB 24 1941

A rumor flew through the crowd that the officers had taken a revolver from one man. Judge Carr investigated, however, and found that a constable from the lower end of the county voluntarily had surrendered his weapon before entering the courtroom.

The state officers were under command of Sergt. C. M. Thorsen. They stood inside the railing about the judge's bench and at every entrance to the courtroom, most of them facing toward the crowd which had shown no indication of disorder when court recessed at 10:30 a.m. after qualification of the jury panel.

The Jackson Negro is charged with the shotgun slaying and robbery of Shields and with assault on Shields' companion. He fled and was caught several days later at Wetumpka, and kept at Kilby Prison until his return here to face trial.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Colbert Negro Held On Attack Charge

MAR 1 1 1941

TUSCUMBIA, Ala.—James Pruitt, 22-year-old Negro, was whisked away from the Colbert County Jail here shortly after noon Tuesday and taken to an unannounced jail after he had been identified as the man who attacked a white girl in outskirts of the city about 10 o'clock Tuesday morning.

A large posse of officers, county and city, along with volunteers was formed after the 18-year-old girl reported the attack to city police and bloodhounds from the office of Sheriff O. H. McRight were taken to the scene in a field on Decatur Street.

Pruitt was arrested by city officers in Leighton, who had been notified, and Chief Deputy Sheriff R. L. McCorkle and Porter Henson boarded a Southern railway gas-car and went to Leighton after the prisoner.

MAR 1 1 1941

Both the girl attacked and her sister, who was with her at the time, were brought to the county jail and each identified the Negro, it was reported Tuesday afternoon. The Negro, it was said, neither denied nor acknowledged the identification.

Birmingham, Ala. Age-Herald
August 23, 1941

ETOWAH PRISONER HERE FOR SAFETY

A Negro who, officers said, confessed two criminal attacks on an Alabama City white woman was being held for safekeeping in the Jefferson County jail Friday.

The Negro, Julius Kelly, 18, was brought here Friday morning by representatives of the Etowah County sheriff's office and with an order from Circuit Judge J. H. Disque at Gadsden authorizing the transfer.

The order accompanying Kelly's transfer declared there was reason to believe that feeling might flare up and that the Negro could be kept safer in Jefferson County.

Kelly was said by officers to have made a confession Friday after arriving here, in the presence of Etowah County officers and Circuit Solicitor Robert E. McAdory.

Officers quoted Kelly as saying he seized a white woman as she was walking to her home in Alabama City and, at the point of a gun, held her captive in some nearby woods about two hours.

Attalla, Ala. Press
August 22, 1941

Attalla Rapist Rushed To Birmingham Today

Richard Kelley, 18 year old Attalla negro was rushed to Birmingham for safe keeping after he was alleged to have raped an Attalla white woman here Thursday night. Sheriff Smith said the woman was attacked three or four times by the negro and escaped only after using a ruse to get away. She was said to have run into a Third Street establishment and collasped. Police were then called, as was the sheriff, and after a short search the negro was said to have been found at the home of his brother. It was further stated that the negro was identified as the attacker.

Officials would make no further comment regarding the case.

Lanett, Ala. News
August 20, 1941

Jeff Cherry, Negro, Arrested On Assault Charge

Jeff Cherry, Lanett negro man, was arrested by Lanett City police Tuesday morning of this week on a charge of assaulting a white woman here. The crime was alleged to have been committed near the overhead bridge Monday morning.

Following his arrest by city officials he was turned over to Sheriff Herbert Milford. Anticipating the possibility of feelings running high in the community, Cherry was not placed in the county jail but taken to another prison in the State for safe-keeping until he shall be brought to trial on the charges.

A negro woman, Janie Lou Wilson, was taken into custody by city officers for further questioning concerning the case.

Birmingham, Ala. News
September 23, 1941

Averting Disgrace

The narrow margin that sometimes protects a community from the disgrace of a lynching is indicated in this report from Union Springs where large groups of uninvited citizens joined in an armed search for a Negro accused of killing one white man and injuring another.

More than 100 automobiles filled with armed private citizens joined officers in search for the Negro despite the fact they had no authority from Sheriff John Carroll or anybody else. Finally they were dispersed, and officers continued the search unhindered and with greatly lessened fear of mob violence.

Perhaps these uninvited armed bands had no intention of doing more than helping to bring the suspect into the custody of the law, where he could be given a regular trial under judicial procedure. However, where several hundred men join in an unorganized search like that, the ground is fertile for seeds of vengeance and violence. The occasion was wide open to the possibility of mob action.

That there was no lawless violence may have been due in part to the fact that the suspect was not immediately found, giving time for tempers to cool. It was also due in part to what appears to have been a very proper and fine concern about the situation on the part of the sheriff and other authorities. They are to be commended for their attitude.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Trial To Be Sped In Ashland Murder

Negro Confesses Killing Miss Mary Garrison

ASHLAND, ALA., Oct. 15—(AP)—Clay County Solicitor W. C. Dempsey said tonight a special session of the Grand Jury probably would be held in the near future to investigate the attack-slaying here yesterday of Miss Mary Webster Garrison, 45, daughter of a former probate and Circuit Court judge.

OCT 16 1941

Dempsey said Doc Powell, 27, a negro, had been arrested and that a warrant charging him with murder and criminal assault was sworn out today by County Coroner Ison A. Johnson. Both the solicitor and Sheriff Z. P. Jordan declared that Powell had confessed to slaying Miss Garrison.

In addition, Dempsey said Albert Craig, 21, another negro, was being held for investigation in connection with the crime.

The solicitor said Miss Garrison, a semi-invalid, had hired Powell to work in her flower garden yesterday afternoon. Her body was discovered by her father, Judge E. J. Garrison, and her step-mother about 6 p.m. in the kitchen of the Garrison home.

A medical examination revealed she had been struck over the head with a blunt instrument, criminally assaulted and stabbed in the breast, Dempsey said.

Powell was arrested at his home in Ashland last night, placed in the jail here and then removed to the Jefferson County jail at Birmingham. Later he was removed from there and it was indicated he would be taken to Kilby Prison, Montgomery.

Miss Garrison was widely known throughout Alabama for her activity in the Order of Eastern Star.

Birmingham Ala. News
October 5, 1941

Indicted Negro Taken To Hospital At Prison

ANDALUSIA, Ala. —(AP)— James McQueen, Negro under manslaughter indictments in connection with the death of four persons in an automobile accident, was removed under guard Saturday from an Andalusia hospital to the State Prison Hospital at Montgomery.

An ambulance bearing the Negro, himself seriously injured, was accompanied to Montgomery by Covington County Sheriff Tom Head and a group of state highway patrolmen sent here by Gov. Dixon Friday night after reports of high feeling against McQueen.

McQueen was indicted Friday on four charges of first degree manslaughter following the deaths of Mrs. Lilla Hawkins, Mrs. Clermont Nelson, Miss Maggie Ballard and Nathaniel Livings, occupants of an automobile which collided with one driven by the Negro near here Thursday.

Both of McQueen's legs were broken and he suffered other injuries, Covington County Hospital reported. Mrs. Nathaniel Livings was injured seriously, and three other passengers in the car driven by Mrs. Nelson slightly hurt.

Gov. Dixon ordered a guard thrown around the hospital Friday night at the request of Sheriff Head and Solicitor Frank Mizell, who said feeling against McQueen was high and they had heard "threats of possible lynching."

87k-1941

Memphis Tenn. Com'rcial Appeal
December 25, 1941

Negro Elks Provide Cheer



Looking over some of the 350 sacks of food delivered by Memphis negro Elks to needy negro families yesterday were: A. L. Thompson (left), exhaulted ruler of the Beale Street Elks, and Lieut. George Lee.

—Staff Photo

350 SACKS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED HERE

Needy Families Provided For By Organization

Six trucks loaded with food for needy negroes rolled down Beale Street yesterday, carrying loads of Christmas cheer made possible by the Blues Bowl football game under the sponsorship of the Beale Street negro Elks.

Before late afternoon yesterday the negro Elks had delivered 350 sacks of food, including hams, bread and other staples.

Selection of the needy families was made by the Elks in co-operation with The Commercial Appeal-American Legion Christmas Fund.

Directing the distribution was A. L. Thompson, exalted ruler of the Beale Street Elks, and Lieut. George Lee, negro writer and insurance man.

Funds for the food gifts this year were raised at the Booker T. Washington High-Brownsville, Tenn., Negro Training School football game.

Chattanooga Tenn. Daily Times
December 7, 1941

CLUB RAISES SHOE FUND TO AID NEGRO CHILDREN

Through the sale of tickets for an entertainment given Friday night by the Twenty-fifth Civic club, a considerable sum of money was raised for the purchase of shoes for the needy Negro children attending the Chattanooga Avenue school.

Mary Bess Cole, president, managed a similar event last year

ALABAMA

which netted shoes for twenty-five children, and with all reports not yet in "we will probably double that number," she stated. A prize was won for efforts in the movement by Mayme Martin, local businesswoman. Prof. Clarence A. King is principal of the school receiving the gifts.

Chattanooga Tenn. Daily Times
December 15, 1941

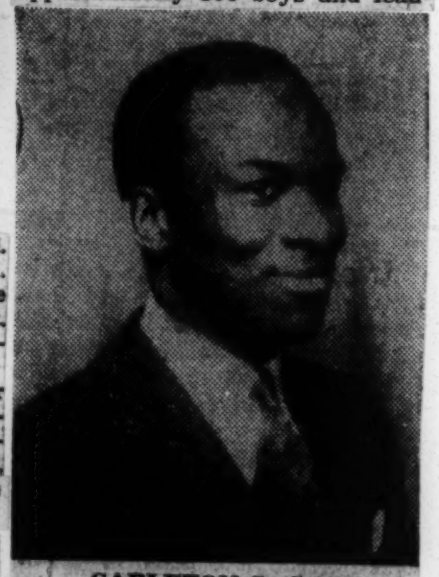
Activities Among Negroes

BY JASPER T. DUNCAN

Carleton L. Lee, Hi-Y secretary for colored work in the southern area council, Young Men's Christian association, was here over the week-end in conference with John L. Pitts, Jr., and James A. Henry branch secretary, with reference to the spring program for the Chattanooga area.

Lee disclosed some interesting facts regarding the work among Negroes in his territory, among them that Tennessee, with eleven registered clubs, leads the south in Hi-Y work. Others listed by him are, Alabama, nine; Louisiana, four; Florida, three, and Mississippi, one.

The conference for the East Tennessee area will likely be held in Chattanooga, Lee stated, and approximately 800 boys and lead-



CARLETON L. LEE

ers will be here for the occasion in the spring.

He was the principal speaker at First Congregational church at the 11 a.m. worship hour yesterday morning.

* * *

Phillis Wheatley Notes

The Hanging of the Greens, the Y. W. C. A. Christmas ceremony, will be held Thursday evening, Dec. 18, at 7 o'clock in the gymnasium of the Phillis Wheatley branch Y. W. C. A., 924 East Eighth street. Nettie James is chairman of the committee to sponsor this program. Mrs. Marvin Petty is pianist. Christmas carols will be sung by the Bible class, Girl Reserves and business girls. The Hanging of the Greens will be done by the Girl Reserves. The candle lighting service will be performed by the resident girls. The Rev. William C. Upshaw, pastor of the Monumental Baptist church, will give the Christmas message. The public is cordially invited.

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Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Sheriff Foils Mob Bent On Lynching

APR 19 1941

ARKANSAS CITY, Ark., Apr. 17—(ANP)—Prompt action last Saturday by Sheriff Howard Clayton of this city in foiling a mob of 200 men gathered outside city jail doubtless saved the life of John Riney, 25, who was being held as a suspect in connection with a criminal assault on a young white matron in McGehee, Ark.

When the mob arrived and demanded the prisoner Sheriff Clayton told them to select a committee of two and he would allow them to enter the jail. This was done and the two mob members failed to find the man they sought.

Clayton had transferred Riney to another jail, whose location he said would be kept a secret until the trial is held. The sheriff said that on Sunday night, after prolonged questioning, Riney confessed attacking the w

APR 19 1941

Riney is a Missouri Pacific track laborer, has lived all his life in the McGehee district. He is married and the father of several children.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

WASHINGTON, D. C.—An administrative change eliminating segregation of personnel and job applicants in the District of Columbia Employment Center has southern members of Congress up in arms.

MAY 24 1941

The subcommittee of the House appropriations committee holding hearings on the 1942 supply bill for the Federal Security Agency withheld approval of funds for that office, it was disclosed, pending a thorough investigation of the Carpenter plan for intergrating personnel and job applicants at employment centers here.

Staff members of the District Employment Center appeared before the subcommittee last Saturday morning. They were called to testify by Representative Malcolm C. Tarver, of Georgia, subcommittee chairman, at the request of Representative Butler B. Hare, of South Carolina, who declared himself "unalterably opposed to any proposal that would provide for integration of white persons with Negroes."

DRAFTED BY EMPLOYMENT CHIEF

The plan was drafted by Martin F. Carpenter, chief of the United States Employment Service. It recommends that "in order to achieve proper and necessary flexibility of staff, proper service to applicants and supervision and control of the work in the office, segregation of activities and staff on the basis of age of applicants, sex, race, or occupation must of necessity be eliminated."

Under the present system colored interviewers handle colored applicants and the offices of colored employees and assembly rooms for colored applicants are separate from those of white persons in similar categories.

"Under the proposed arrangement all applicants for Federal positions would be interviewed at one central office and their cards maintained in one master file," Mr. Carpenter said.

TO WORK SIDE BY SIDE

He said also that white and colored employees would work side by side, although he denied that white applicants would be interviewed by colored interviewers.

Opposition to the plan was also apparent among some colored employees of the employment center, who believe that the plan would result in a reduction in the number of employees and that some of them would be among those to go.

Another attack upon the plan was made by Representative Mendal Rivers, Democrat, South Carolina.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Sheriff Foils Mob Bent On Lynching Suspect

APR 18 1941

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APR 18 1941

Riney is a Missouri Pacific track laborer, has lived all his life in the McGehee district. He is married and the father of several children.

Soldiers Stand By Man Charged With Assault

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—(ANP)—A special escort of approximately 400 soldiers from nearby Camp Robinson was provided for John Henry Riney as he was taken from the jail here Wednesday to McGehee county in southeastern Arkansas to face trial for the alleged attack of a white woman in April.

MAY 20 1941

The troops were sent at the request of Gov. Adkins who wired President Roosevelt asking the protection of federal soldiers in the absence of the Arkansas National guard, now fully mustered into federal service.

The soldiers who appeared at the jail shortly before noon in armored trucks, on which machine guns were mounted to flank the automobile in which the prisoner was placed for the 140-mile trip to Arkansas City, were accompanied by nearly a score of state police.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

SHERIFF FOILS MOB BENT ON LYNCHING MAN IN ARKANSAS

APR 18 1941

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APR 18 1941

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At the edge of the city a convoy of more than 50 automobiles and army trucks formed for the journey.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

400 Guard Man From Violence

MAY 24 1941

Jury Condemns Suspect To Die

In Four Minutes

ARKANSAS CITY, Ark.—About 400 soldiers, members of the 140th Infantry Regiment of Missouri, in training at Camp Robinson, camped overnight in the courthouse square and surrounded the building during the trial last week of John Henry Riney, 25, alleged rapist.

Through the entire proceedings Major General V. Strong, commander of the Eighth Army Corps, circled over the little town of 1,500 population in a bimotored transport plane.

He talked with Judge T. G. Parham by radio shortly before the trial started and afterwards maintained constant contact with his officers on the ground.

TOOK NO CHANCES

It was the most elaborate guard ever provided for an accused person in the history of the state. Every precaution was taken to make the trial orderly for the youth, who was accused of raping a young white woman last April 3.

When the humble Desha County farm hand was taken from Pulaski County jail May 14, he was placed in a state police auto with a personal bodyguard of several state officers.

MILE-LONG GUARD

MAY 24 1941

Riney found himself in the middle of a parade that stretched a half mile in front and a half mile to the rear. There were trucks by the score loaded with infantrymen of the United States army each holding a loaded rifle with fixed bayonets. Other trucks carried machine guns with crews in position and ready to go at a second's notice.

Some of the trucks were equipped with radio and messages sparked to and fro during the entire journey to the courthouse.

GUNS EVERYWHERE

From the window of his celll in the Arkansas City jail the night before his trial on Thursday, May 15, the accused man could see the surrounding streets patrolled by armed men. Machine guns bristled from every corner of the courthouse square, defying a threatening mob that milled about the square throughout the night.

Bayonets formed a protecting wall around him as he entered and left the courthouse. Heavily armed fight-

erates, at that time by civic groups and individuals.

However, the explanation was made that no other qualified Negroes were available to assume command and that white officers would have to take over for a while. Assurances were given, however, that as soon as someone could be trained for the post, Pea Island would again become an all-Negro unit.

MANTEO NATIVE

Berry, the new commandant, is a native of Manteo where his family now resides. It is expected that he will be given first class rating immediately. Unofficially, but from reliable sources, the Guide has learned that Berry is being considered for the rank of chief petty officer, highest given active coast guardsmen.

the request of local authorities. A week ago Riney was secretly rushed here by car, arraigned before Circuit Judge T. G. Parham, who named defense counsel for him, and then hurried back to Little Rock. Officers said this was done to prevent any public demonstration.

A special jury panel in addition tothe regular petit jury list has been summoned for Thursday's trial.

The Camp Robinson troops appeared at Pulaski County pail in Little Rock shortly before noon Wednesday and stood by as state police removed the negro from the concrete structure, afterwards flanking him with armored cars as the convoy formedto move out of the city.

Gov. Adkins said although state police would probably be sufficient for duty at the trial, it would be necessary to take every man on the force from other duties, which would be unwise Since the national guard has been called for army training, the state has no armed forces at its command.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

ACCUSED NEGRO MOVED FROM LITTLE ROCK JAIL

Soldiers Will Stand Guard At Arkansas City Trial

ARKANSAS CITY, Ark., May 14. —(AP) — Scheduled to face trial here Thursday on a charge of criminally assaulting a young white woman at nearby McGehee last April, 25-year-old John Henry Riney, negro, was brought to this little Mississippi River town late Wednesday in a convoy of more than 50 automobiles and armored Army trucks manned by a score of state police and some 400 members of the 140th Infantry of Missouri.

The 120-mile trip from Little Rock, where Riney has been held for safekeeping since he was charged, was made without incident, and without stop across the heart of Southeast Arkansas' cotton plantation country.

There was no ripple of excitement in this town of 1500 population as the convoy cars, which included opentrucks with mounted machine guns, rolled through quiet streets to Courthouse Square where Riney, who rode handcuffed in a state police automobile, was turned over to the sheriff and placed in Desha County jail.

The soldiers, obtained from Camp Robinson, training center of the 35th Division, by Gov. Homer M. Adkins inthe absence of the state's National Guard, which is in Federal service, promptly pitched tents in the square to remain throughout the trial. More than 200 members of the detachment took up guard duty on the square, and around the courthouse and jail.

The Governor appealed to Camp Robinson, and subsequently to high Army officials, for the troops at

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Asks FDR To Send Protection

372

Governor Of Arkansas Sees Need of Troops

MAY 7 1941

LITTLE ROCK. Ark. — (ANP) — Gov. Adkins said Tuesday that he had wired President Roosevelt asking that troops be stationed in Arkansas City during the trial of John Henry Riney, charged with attacking a white woman at McGehee recently.

MAY 7 1941

Although the date for the trial has not been set, the governor said he agreed with the views of the circuit judge, sheriff, and prosecuting attorney that troops should be on hand since feeling is still high in the country where the crime is alleged to have taken place. Riney has been held in an undisclosed prison since his arrest as a precautionary measure. A mob of 200 men attempted to take the suspect from the McGehee jail, but the town's sheriff had already had him transferred elsewhere.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Transfer Man To Prevent Lynching

WILMINGTON, Del.—William H. Fields, of Richmond, Va., was brought to the [illegible] County Jail here, after threats to lynch him were heard at Seaford, where he was arrested on Saturday night.

Fields was caught near the home of a 19-year-old girl whose screams routed an intruder who entered her bedroom. Police said they found a pair of shoes and hat under the girl's window which fitted Fields. He was not wearing shoes when arrested.

——A Colored Judge——

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Fear Lynching; Suspect Moved

WILMINGTON, Del.—For the second time in the past two months, lynching threats have caused authorities to transfer suspects to the Sussex County jail here from other sections of the State.

The latest case was that of William H. Fields of Richmond, Va., who was removed from Seaford, Monday, where he had been arrested two days before because a pair of shoes and a hat found under the window of a 19-year-old white girl fitted him.

The girl, whose screams routed an intruder from her bedroom, said that she did not get a good look at the man. Fields, who denied that he was involved, was

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Feared Mob Action Dodged In Delaware

Alleged Slayer Is Moved From Bridgeville To Safer Prison

BRIDGEVILLE, Del. (Special)—A lynching was narrowly averted here early this week, because of the alleged slaying by Charles McK. Tingle, 19, of J. E. Richards, 30, white, who pushed him from a crowded sidewalk here Saturday evening.

State police carried the youth to the county prison at Georgetown after feelings began to run high among white residents following the man's death by stabbing.

Tingle was accompanied by four other youths. An argument is said to have ensued over who was being crowded from the walk and Tingle is alleged to have pulled a pen-knife and stabbed the white man twice.

Tingle's four companions fled. Richards died within a few minutes after he had been stabbed. His death is the first killing of a white by a Negro in this area in a long number of years.

Del.

37k-1941

GENERAL

6768

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
April 2, 1941

A Word for the South

In discussing the improvement in the lynching record, Scribner's Commentator magazine says:

"Significantly, 1940 has twenty-two instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of these were in Northern states, and nineteen in the South. In one case armed force was used. In others threats and precautions saved the lives of twenty-eight persons."

No lynching occurred in South Carolina last year, but there were occasions when community feeling ran high. Officers of the law were prompt and efficient in safeguarding their prisoners, some of whom were white. Suppression of lynching has made steady progress in this and other Southern states.

Federal interference would not hasten the end of lynching in the North or in the South. On the other hand, federal interference would hamper the efforts of Southern people to attain the irreducible minimum in lynchings.

A lynching in the North is as serious a crime as it is in the South, but anti-lynching agitators in the North choose to emphasize Southern lynchings and overlook the Northern. Northern lynchings are sometimes called by other names.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Lynch Attempts On Jehovah's Witnesses Put Negro Lynching To Shame

37K

ST. LOUIS.—(ANP)—That American mob brutality is not confined to mistreatment of Negroes but is visited upon whites as well is revealed in the report made here this week when the sect known as "Jehovah's Witnesses" began a five day theocratic convention at the Arena here this week. Visitors numbering 75,000 were expected for the event. They overflowed the housing available and many slept in parks and open spaces. The membership appeared to be chiefly poor-white.

In a report made to the convention it was claimed that during the past year, 600 American mobs attacked and injured some 2,000 members of the pacifist sect.

"Jehovah's Witnesses have been assaulted, beaten, kidnapped, driven out of towns, counties and states, forced to drink castor oil, taunted and insulted by demonized crowds, jailed by hundreds and without charge while being denied the privilege of conferring with friends, relatives or lawyers," their report said.

AUG 6 1941

The witnesses oppose most religious but attack primarily the Roman Catholic. They do not believe in war and refuse to salute even the American flag, claiming the act is idolatrous.

37k-1941

General

6770

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Lynch Attempts On Jehovah's Witnesses Dwarf Race Lynchings

AUG 16 1941

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AUG 16 1941

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Tampa, Fla. Tribune
July 6, 1941

Encouraging Incident

WE HAVE been awaiting some comment by our fearless but not always fair commentator, Mr. Pegler, on the incident recently reported from a small town in Georgia, where a mob, diligently engaged in the grim operation of lynching a negro, and going so far as to place the rope about the victim's neck, reconsidered its resolution and, instead of inflicting summary execution, returned the negro to the county jail, delivering him safely back into the hands of the Sheriff, from whose custody it had an hour before forcibly snatched him.

This exceptional instance of mob law escaped, somehow, the attention of those fevered critics of the South who are fond of denouncing the people of a whole state or section because a lynching occurred at some spot within its boundaries. In this case the mobsters, at the very moment of their vengeance, decided that there might be some doubt of the victim's guilt. This decision was reached when the negro, just about to be jerked into eternity, again refused to confess. The mobsters said, according to the Sheriff, that "he wouldn't confess and we weren't sure he was guilty," adding: "When a negro is about to die he will confess if he is guilty."

While the failure of this lynching must have been keenly disappointing to many of the assembled spectators, it is worthy of note that, even in a murder-minded mob, justice and reason may assert itself; and it is a heartening note to all those who hope that this barbarous method of "justice" ultimately may disappear from the records of a law-abiding and righteous nation. Meantime, we call Mr. Pegler's particular attention to the fact that this incident occurred in Georgia, which is in the South, and next-door neighbor to "lawless" Florida.

Columbia, S. C. Record
July 3, 1941

Georgia Mob Fashion

A Georgia mob established something of a new precedent even for Georgia last week when it stormed a jail at Eastman, Ga., seized a Negro prisoner held on charge of attempted rape and then some hours later returned him to the jail, unlynched.

"It is my understanding," a deputy sheriff explained, "that he wouldn't confess and the crowd didn't feel they could lynch him."

And if there is any other incident as this in the lynching annals nobody has discovered it. Mobs have seized innocent persons before this—and the prisoner's innocence in this case hasn't been proved—but the simple fact of innocence has never been a protection against lynching.

So the explanation of this Georgia mob's behavior must lie deeper than this. What it seems to stem from is the growing Southern opposition to lynching. Georgia cannot abandon the crime outright and puts its faith in its own juries, as South Carolina has been doing, but needs must go through the motions even though wiser counsel prevail in the end.

The Georgia officers who were supposed to be guarding the jail were, it should be noted, as guilty of neglect and failure to uphold law and order as if their prisoner had been lynched, as he could so far as they were concerned. So too much should not be expected of Georgia on the basis of this incident. The next mob may not change its mind.

Roanoke, Va., World News
June 30, 1941

For Lack of Evidence

A new twist in the long and evil lynching record is reported from Eastman, Georgia, where a Negro prisoner, seized at the jail one night last week, was returned to the jail "for lack of evidence." The suspect was taken away by a mob of more than 100 men who stormed the jail, but it does not appear that the sheriff has taken any steps to apprehend any members of that mob.

Later leaders of the mob returned the accused person to the jail, and turned him over to the officers, with the statement that they had been unable to find sufficent evidence on which to lynch him.

The inflamed mob presumes to serve as judge and jury, arresting officer and executioner, usurping the functions of the courts as well as making war on the law itself. It would be an ironical outcome if, in the due process of law, when this Negro suspect is brought to a trial, the prosecution shall be able to present evidence that will satisfy a jury of his guilt. For there seems to be no precedent for a "not guilty because of lack of evidence" verdict in the court of Judge Lynch.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

A Mob Trial

LAST week a Georgia mob broke into a jail, took away Eddie Spivey who was accused of rape, carried him into the country preparatory to the kill and returned him to the jail where he was again given over to the law enforcing authorities.

That was quite an unusual case. It is certainly without precedent. We have never known a mob to find its victim not guilty of the crime of rape when a white woman accused a Negro. But it appears that a member of the mob began to query the victim in a last minute effort to determine the nature of the penalty—that is, whether it would be burning or hanging. The mob reached the "preposterous" decision that there was considerable doubt as to whether the accused was guilty and that the testimony should be heard by the court in accordance with due process of law. That decision was certainly inconsistent with mob-rule as it is known in the South. Once a Negro is accused of rape no further evidence is usually necessary. The accusation is tantamount to a trial, conviction and sentence. The mob carries out the execution.

This aborted lynching episode demonstrates one thing clearly. It points out that the innocent can be the victim of mob violence. The facts have shown that many times the innocent has been lynched while the guilty has been permitted to carry on the nefarious crimes.

This aborted lynching also shows the necessity for a Federal anti-lynching law to protect the innocence and to give the guilty the benefit of a fair and impartial trial.

It was only by the incident of luck that Spivey was not lynched and burned. Had that been done the citizens of Georgia would have been quite satisfied that "the law had taken its course" and civilization would have also been wronged. All that body of laws that evolved since the Magna Charta of 1215 and which have distinguished civilization from savagery would have again been tainted with the sins of the South.

The country needs an anti-lynch law to discourage this sort of thing. Law and order have been cowed in the South where a Negro is to benefit therefrom. Judges forget their oaths, sheriffs open jails to angry mobs and citizens kill without trials when colored men are accused of crimes against white people.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Some Of The Facts On That "Fair" Mob In Eastman

I CUT MY FOURTH of July vacation short to spend some time in Eastman, Georgia where the "fair and square" mob took a colored man from jail, carried him to the woods, then whipped him and when he did not confess to an assault on a white woman because she said he looked like the man, they carried him back to jail, and the papers gloat over the fact that the southern mob was fair and square.

I learned from colored people in Eastman, that not only did they beat him, but white men tell how some of the mob members took pliers and pinched and snatched various organs of his body. The colored people say that white people tell how he, while writhing in pain told them, "I know you are going to kill me, but after I am dead, keep on hunting for the guilty party."

He was taken back to jail and later carried to Macon, and put in jail for safekeeping. Some white papers give praise to this southern mob for being so "fair", yet I wonder would they trust their fate to a mob who would take them out and twist their organs to make them confess. It was late but I went to Macon to verify that he was there the same night.

Finally, does the sheriff know who the mob was? Maybe he doesn't after their two visits to the jail, but the white folks talk about the details on the street corners. Will anything be done? I say, not a thing, but the Negro, innocent or guilty is going to go some time.

Some people will tell you they are with you in front and knife you in the end.

The Northwest Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

Georgia Lynch Mob Frees Innocent Negro

Eddie Lee Spivey, a Negro charged with raping a 61 year old white woman stood on an improvised gallows, a rope around his neck and a muttering lynch mob of 500 men assembled below.

JUL 4 1941

"What have you got to say for yourself?" someone shouted from the mob, which had stormed the jail, overpowered Sheriff J. C. Lewis and brought Spivey to the place of execution.

"I didn't do it," Spivey said. "I hope to see you white men in heaven. I'm not guilty."

A silence fell. There was an embarrassed shuffling of feet. A self-appointed leader stepped up and broke the spell, saying:

"When one of these boys is about to die he will confess if he is guilty."

JUL 4 1941

Less than an hour later Sheriff Lewis was aroused from bed to receive Spivey back in custody, unharmed. Spivey's case will go to the grand jury in due course.

The incident happened Wednesday night and details leaked out only Friday.

Trenton, Ga., Times
July 10, 1941

'Time' Magazine's Yankee Writer Distorts Facts in Story About Eastman 'Lynching'

The national weekly magazine "Time" in its last issue gave Eastman considerable undesirable notoriety by publishing an exaggerated Yankee version of the midnight ride and "trial" of a Dodge County Negro accused of rape.

A careful reading of the article in "Time," which is reproduced below, will show that the staff writer who compiled the story from various news reports not only exaggerated to a great extent but put down several phrases that varied somewhat from the truth.

To begin with, "Time", described the negro, "Bay" Spivey, as a "sharecropper with a good reputation." As anyone in the Mount Ararat or Chauncey community knows, Spivey's reputation for the past several years was that of a "nigger bootlegger" who specialized in illegal, rot-gut corn whisky. In fact, Spivey now claims he was in the field where the crime occurred on the night of the crime because he was searching for some corn liquor he believed had been hidden there.

"Time" further added to the agony and embarassment of the elderly woman who was assaulted by publishing her name. Although there is no federal law to prevent this, there is a Georgia state law prohibiting any newspaper or magazine from revealing the identity of any woman who is a victim of rape. To say the least, this widely circulated magazine violated the ethics of decent journalism in printing the name of the white woman who was outraged.

All Georgians, whether readers of "Time" or not, can draw their own conclusions as to the flagrant type of "mis-porting' the magazine allows by reading the complete "Time" article, which is printed herewith for that purpose

"JUDGE LYNCH OVERRULED"

Over the little town of Eastman, Ga. lay the dead pall of fear and hatred that comes over Southern towns when everybody knows what is going to happen. In the town square, hard-eyed, determined men came together, waiting for darkness. There was going to be a lynching.

The heat lay heavily on the paved sidewalks, the trim houses beside the highway. In a cell in the county jail a young Negro waited too. Eddie Lee Spivey, 28, a sharecropper with a good reputation, married, with two children, had been arrested for rape the night before. Up in his farming community of Mt. Airy, a 65-year-old white woman had been attacked as she crossed a field to her son's house. Bloodhounds had followed tracks from the scene to a spot near Spivey's house.

The Negro prayed. The other prisoners looked through the barred window at the growing mob, and told him to come look. Spivey talked with his Lord and asked Him to save him. He told the Lord that he was going to tell the truth; suddenly he was no longer scared or worried, and lay back on his bunk and slept. About dark the boys woke him. He looked through the bars at the scene swimming in the hot Southern twilight, a string of 100 cars drawn up before the jail, 700 white men circulating under the trees. Strong in his faith, he lay down again and slept. It was 10:15 when the mob's leaders, with keys taken from the sheriff, unlocked the cell door. Spivey knew they had come to kill him. He held up his hands and waited.

Half a dozen men held him by his arms and legs and dragged him out to their car. It streaked over the eight miles of road to the scene of the crime, other cars following. Out in the woods beside the field, somebody built a bonfire. Somebody asked Spivey if he had raped Mrs. — —. He said he had not seen her in five years. Somebody asked Spivey if he knew where his potato patch was, near there. When Spivey said he did not, the man said, "You're a ——-damned liar" and hit him on the head with the butt of a pistol. The man swung again, missed, hit a white man beside him.

Spivey sat on the ground. A double plowline was fastened around his neck. The blow had deafened him; he could not hear the questions. Somebody kicked him and he could hear the roar for his death. He said "Go ahead and kill me but then keep looking for the man who done it."

The mob hesitated. The men who were likkered up wanted to get it over with. An hour passed while the fire burned down. Some piney-woods law-giver thought of an answer. Two of the raped woman's sons were there. Elzie and Early. So the crowd said for Elzie and Early to decide.

This focusing of responsibility troubled Elzie and Early. They crossed the fields to ask their mother what to do. She told them to take the Negro back to jail and let the law take its course. At midnight bruised but still unafraid, Spivey was back in his cell. The boys in his cell said they had figured there was a better chance of seeing their mothers come back from the grave than of ever seeing him alive again.

For the first time, as far as anybody could recollect, Judge Lynch had been overruled.

Waco, Ga., News
December 6, 1941

Bibb Jury Frees Dodge Negro in Assault Case

Eddie Lee Spivey, Dodge county Negro, was free today after a superior court jury acquitted him of charges of raping a white woman in one of the most unique cases ever tried here.

Having survived a lynch mob which dramatically took him from jail but later decided Spivey might not be the right man, the Negro gained his freedom after the jury deliberated only an hour and 55 minutes. The trial had lasted four and a half days.

Jubilant last night, Spivey declared:

"I think the Lord has saved me for a purpose . . . to preach or teach . . . or something for the carrying out of His work. I was never afraid because I knew the Lord was going to save me. He strengthened me in my dreams when I was in jail waiting to be tried."

Defense Attorney D. Lee Churchwell had read some of Spivey's dreams to the jury.

Following the verdict, Judge A. M. Anderson expressed the thanks of both Dodge and Bibb counties to the jury for its services. The trial was a Dodge county case brought here by change of venue.

Court attaches provided rigid protection of the Negro against any possible violence after he was acquitted.

37k-1941

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

GEORGIA

6772

Mob Spares Life of Negro On Plea of Attack Victim

Suspect Returned To Eastman Jail After Being 'Tried'

By HAL ALLEN
[Telegraph Staff Writer]

EASTMAN, June 26 — Streets were deserted in this little South Georgia town today as Eastman citizens observed their traditional Thursday afternoon holiday, little more than 12 hours after a mob of approximately 700 men had participated in one of the weirdest jail deliveries in the history of Southern mob violence.

After milling in front of the Dodge county jail for more than eight hours Wednesday, the crowd overpowered Sheriff J. Charlton Lewis and his deputies that night, dragged a young Negro accused of raping a white women from the building, carried him to the scene of the alleged crime, conducted a "trial" before a blazing bonfire, and returned the suspect to the jail "for want of enough evidence to lynch him."

Deputy Sheriff Gus Lewis said the suspect, Eddie Lee Spivey, 28, had been beaten but not seriously. He added "it is my understanding that he wouldn't confess, and the crowd didn't feel feel they could lynch him."

The Negro is reported to have steadfastly maintained his innocence while the mob administered the "third degree," and to have told them "even if you do kill me don't stop hunting until you've found the guilty person."

VICTIM SAVED SUSPECT

It was reported here the mob, after grilling the Negro for more than an hour, informed the alleged victim, a 65-year-old farm woman, they had him in custody and asked what action she desired to take.

"She told the mob to return the Negro to the sheriff and let the law take its course. that she believed justice would be done in the courts," one Eastman man related.

Deputy Lewis said the Negro is now being held in the county jail for grand jury action on a charge of assault.

The Negro was taken into custody Tuesday night by Deputy Sheriff Comer Fordham, and LeRoy Wiggins and Tom Graham, farmers residing in the Mt Airy section.

Sheriff J. Charlton Lewis said bloodhounds were carried to the scene of the assault a short time after it was reported and succeeded in following tracks to a point a short distance from Spivey's home.

The sheriff was emphatic in his statement that the dogs did not trail Spivey to his residence.

According to the victim, the attack occurred in a field near her home while she was en route to visit a neighbor. She described her assailant as a masked Negro about 25 or 30 years of age.

Sheriff Lewis said he carried Spivey before the victim shortly after his arrest Tuesday night and that "she was unable to positively identify him."

NO ACTION PLANNED

"She said Spivey looked very much like the man who attacked her," the officer related, "but she could not say definitely. I later heard that the mob members took him before her and that she did positively identify him."

Members of the mob apparently made no effort to conceal their identity. The few citizens here who continued to discuss the unprecedented occurrence today frankly divulged identity of many in the group.

Sheriff Lewis said no court action would be taken against the mob members.

"We are satisfied with their disposition of the case," he added.

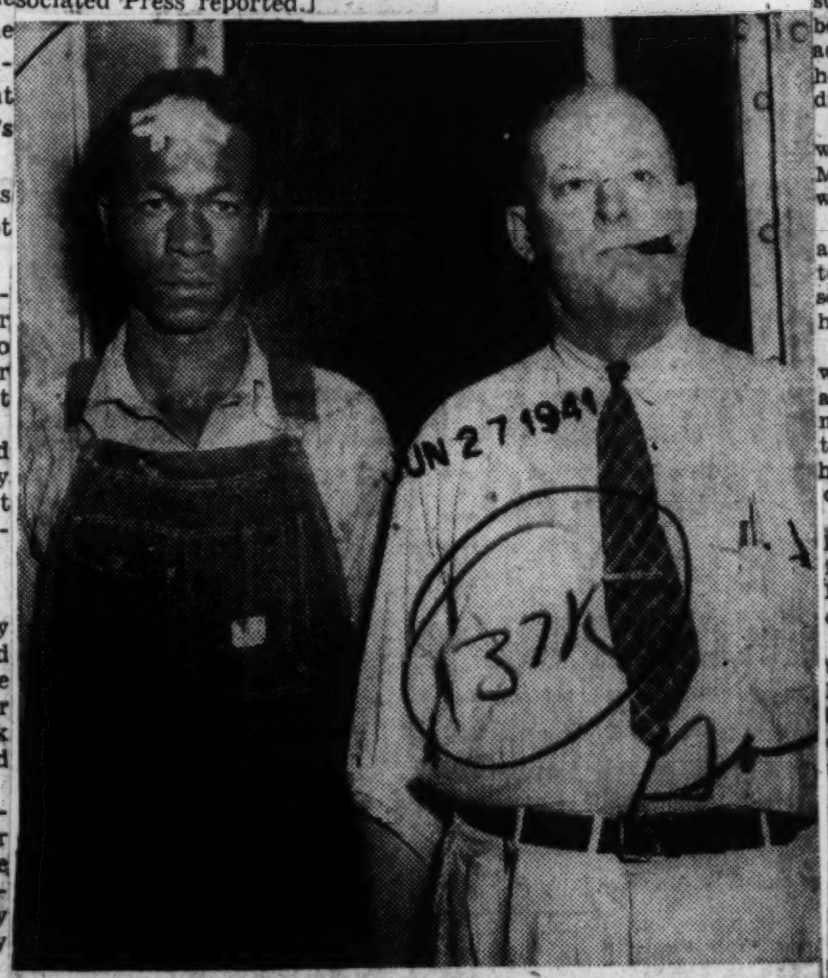
MATTER OF SECONDS

The sheriff said he and two other deputies were the only officers at the jail when the delivery was made.

"When the mob started," he related, "it was just a matter of seconds before they completely overpowered us, took the keys and removed the Negro."

A line of automobiles more than a mile long convoyed the suspect to the scene of his "trial" by the mob.

[President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute, a keeper of records on lynchings, said as far as he knew the Eastman occurrence was unprecedented, the Associated Press reported.]



His Story Unusual in Mob History

EDDIE LEE SPIVEY, young Negro, was little the worse yesterday after having been returned to the Dodge county jail by the mob which removed him and "tried" him before a roaring bonfire. At right is T. L. Graham, one of the three men who took Spivey into custody at his home. (Photo by Hanson studio).

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Conscientious Mob 'Acquits' Prey For Lack Of Evidence

EASTMAN, GA., June 26.—(AP)—In what is believed an unprecedented "acquittal" in the usually lethal court of "Judge Lynch," a mob dragged a negro from Dodge County Jail and then returned him "for want of evidence."

Deputy Sheriff Gus Lewis said the suspect, Eddie Lee Spivey, 28, had been beaten but not seriously and added "it is my understanding that he wouldn't confess and the crowd didn't feel they could lynch him."

An assault upon a 65-year-old white woman occurred Tuesday in the Mount Ariat section and the negro was jailed that night, the deputy said.

The mob began forming shortly after noon yesterday, grew to 500 to 700 persons last night and a section stormed the jail, guarded by a half dozen county officers.

Taken from the cell, the negro was whisked out of town at the head of a line of some 100 automobiles. About midnight the negro was returned to the jail where, Lewis said, he is held for Grand Jury action on a charge of attempted assault.

President F. D. Patterson, of Tuskegee, a keeper of records on lynchings, said as far as he knew the Eastman occurrence was unprecedented.

Officers said they were informed the negro emphatically told the mob he was not guilty and that if they killed him he hoped they would keep on hunting until they found the guilty man.

Then, officers reported, the mob leaders discussed what to do and finally sent a delegation of several members to see the assault victim and ask her what she wished them to do. It was reported she told them to "take him back to jail and let the law take its course."

Dodge County Sheriff J. C. Lewis said that when the negro was taken into custody he was taken before the victim.

"She said he looked like the one," Sheriff Lewis said, "But said she could not positively identify him as her assailant."

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Mob Returns Prisoner to Georgia Jail

Unprecedented 'Acquittal' Results When 'Victim' Fails To Confess.

EASTMAN, Ga., June 26.—(AP)—In what is believed an unprecedented "acquittal" in the usually lethal court of "Judge Lynch," a mob dragged a Negro from Dodge county jail and then returned him "for want of evidence."

Deputy Sheriff Gus Lewis said the suspect, Eddie Lee Spivey, 28, had been beaten but not seriously, and added: "It is my understanding that he wouldn't confess and the crowd didn't feel they could lynch him."

The assault upon a 65-year-old white woman occurred Tuesday in the Mt. Ariat section, and the Negro was jailed that night, the deputy said.

The mob began forming shortly after noon yesterday, grew to 500 or 700 persons last night and a section stormed the jail, guarded by half a dozen county officers.

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Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Man Proves Innocence To Mob Within The Shadows Of Death

EASTMAN, Ga., July 3—The mob was against him but God was on his side.

That is Eddie Lee Spivey's explanation of his miraculous escape from the Dodge county mob which snatched him from the jail here Wednesday night and later returned him to the safety of his cell.

Talking slowly and deliberately in a rich, expressive dialect, Spivey told today how he withstood harsh blows and cruel torture from a shouting, cursing mob. At one time he lost consciousness from pain, he said.

The 22-year-old man, accused of attacking a 65-year-old white woman in a rural section was taken from the jail and "tried" by the light of a big bonfire. The mob's decision that evidence was insufficient to lynch him wrote a brand new chapter in the history of impromptu Georgia justice.

DIDN'T GET SCARED

Spivey said today, "I talked with my Lord after they arrested me Tuesday night and asked Him to save me. I told Him I was going to tell the truth, and after I talked with Him I didn't get scared or worried a bit."

Apparently still unable to realize that he is one of the few men who were ever returned alive to jail after having been seized by a mob, Spivey calmly related the following account of his harrowing experience:

"When the mob began gathering in front of the county jail in Eastman early Tuesday afternoon some of the other prisoners looked out of the window and saw them. They got scared and told me to look. I wasn't a bit afraid when I saw them because Mr. Lewis (the sheriff) had already come upstairs and told me they were after me but they were going to have to get him first.

"After I looked out of the window I sat back down on my bunk and in a little while I went to sleep.

"Just about dark the other boys woke me again and told me the crowd was getting larger and that they were coming after me. I got up and looked out of the window but I still wasn't scared so I went back to sleep.

"The other prisoners tried to wake me up again just a few minutes before the mob rushed the jail but I just turned over and went back to sleep. The next thing I remember, Mr. —— and some other white men were unlocking my cell and coming in after me I knew they were going to get me and kill me so I just held up my hands and waited for them.

"Six or seven of the men grabbed me by the arms and legs and rushed me out to their car. Three men got in the front and three sat in the back, holding me so tight I could hardly move.

PUT ROPE AROUND NECK

"When we got out in the country, they took me out of the car and asked me if I had raped Mrs. —— there. I told them I hadn't seen her in five years.

"One of the men asked me if I knew where his potato patch was in that neighborhood. I told him I did not, and he called me a 'damn liar' and hit me on the head with the butt of his pistol. He tried to hit me again but struck the white man on my right instead.

"Then the men made me sit down on the ground and they put a rope around my neck. The pistol blow on my head deafened me and I couldn't hear the questions they were asking me. When I didn't answer as fast as they asked questions some of the crowd started kicking me in the back and on the head.

"I told them I didn't do the crime they were accusing me of but they knocked me over my face and started twisting my legs. Blood was running into my nose and mouth from the place on my head and the pain was hurting me so bad when they twisted my legs that I couldn't talk.

MAINTAINED INNOCENCE

"They kept twisting my legs and kicking and hitting me and asking me questions. I just kept telling them the truth, that I didn't do it.

"After a little while my mind went almost blank and I don't remember anything else until I heard somebody yell out and ask how many wanted to kill me and how many wanted to take me back to jail.

"That mob wasn't going to shoot me. They were going to burn me. I heard some of them say they had cans of gasoline ready.

"Most of the crowd said they wanted to kill me and I just knew that they were going to do it. I told them then that even if they did kill me not to stop hunting until they found the man who had raped her.

"Then Mr. ——, one of the men who had taken me out of the cell, got the crowd together and they decided to take me back to jail.

"When they took me back, some of the boys in jail said they figured they would have had a better chance to see their dead mothers come back from the grave than to see me returned alive."

WENT ON MISSION FOR MOTHER

Spivey, above the average in intelligence for the uneducated rural South, told his story frankly and simply. Obviously nervous until my mission was explained, he spoke clearly and firmly during the entire interview.

In describing his actions prior to his arrest on the assault charges, Spivey admitted he had passed near the scene of the attack Tuesday but said he was en route to a point about two miles away in search of some "shine" whiskey.

He asserted that a turpentine worker had found a quart of illicit whisky in the woods in that vicinity several days before and at his mother's request he had gone there in an effort to find more.

"Ma said she was feeling bad and wanted some liquor," he related. "I didn't have no cash money so I thought I would go see if I could find somewhere the other man found a quart two or three days ago. I'm farming this year and I'm trading on credit at Mr. Ralph Kelly's store in Chauncey and I jes' didn't have any money to buy her no whiskey."

VICTIM FAILS TO IDENTIFY

Spivey said when the officers arrested him at his home he was afraid to admit the search for the whisky and told them instead he had gone to the home of his employer, Henry Brown, prominent Dodge farmer. When members of the Brown family denied he had been there, the man continued, he admitted he had lied and asked officers to take him to the point where he had searched for the liquor so he could show them his tracks. He said the request was denied.

Wednesday morning, Spivey said, he was carried to the victim's home where she was asked to identify him.

"She said I was about the same size," he asserted. "When she told Mr. Lewis and the others that the man who had attacked her was masked, they put a mask over my face. She said it could have been me. I had wanted them to take me before her because I figured when she saw my face she would be able to tell them that I was not the one who did it."

Son of a tenant farmer, Spivey has been married five years and is the father of two sons, one four years of age and the other two. Spivey said he went to school for about three years but stopped and began working after his father died some 12 years ago. He was one of a family of 13 children.

Tifton, Ga., Gazette
June 28, 1941

Most anything can happen, now that a Georgia mob has taken a negro, suspected of assault upon an aged white woman, from jail and then returned him after being unable to get a confession to the crime. While the mob erred in taking the negro from the jail, the members did their best to make amends by returning him to the authorities. The negro, himself, probably is ready to let the whole matter drop where it is.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Dodge Negro To Be Tried Here Oct. 1

Eddie Lee Spivey, the Dodge county Negro a mob returned safely to jail because of "insufficient evidence" will be tried in Macon under change of venue order granted by Judge Eschol Graham.

Charged with rape, Spivey faces possible death in the electric chair if convicted.

When the case is heard here Oct. 1, Solicitor General Charles H. Garrett of the Macon circuit will conduct the prosecution.

D. Lee Churchwell of Macon, Spivey's counsel, agreed in the stipulation changing place of trial that no question will be raised regarding the empaneling of the grand jury in Dodge county or the fact that no Negroes serve on the grand jury, and that no Negroes have served on the jury box.

Spivey is now being held in the Bibb county jail.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

WOULD NOT CONFESS TO ALLEGED CRIME; WOMAN SAVES MAN

EASTMAN, Ga., June 26.—Streets were deserted in this little South Georgia town today as Eastman citizens observed their traditional Thursday afternoon holiday, little more than 12 hours after a mob of approximately 700 men had participated in one of the weirdest jail deliveries in the history of Southern mob violence.

After milling in front of the Dodge county jail for more than eight hours Wednesday afternoon and night, the crowd overpowered Sheriff J. Charlton Lewis and his deputies that night, dragged a young Negro accused of raping a white woman from the building, carried him to the scene of the alleged crime, conducted a trial in the light of a blazing bonfire, and returned the suspect to the jail "for want of enough evidence to lynch him."

WOULDN'T CONFESS

Deputy Sheriff Gus Lewis said the suspect, Eddie Lee Spivey, 22, had been beaten, but not seriously. He added, "it is my understanding that he wouldn't confess and the crowd didn't feel they could lynch him."

Spivey is reported to have steadfastly maintained his innocence while the mob administered the "third degree," and to have told them "even if you kill me don't stop hunting until you've found the guilty person."

It was reported here the mob, after grilling the man for more than an hour, informed the alleged victim, a 65-year-old farm woman, they had him in custody and asked what action she desired to take.

VICTIM SPEAKS

"She told the mob to return the Negro to the sheriff and let the law take its course, that she believed justice would be done in the courts," one Eastman man related.

Deputy Lewis said the man is now being held in the county jail for grand jury action on a charge of assault.

Spivey was taken into custody Tuesday night by Deputy Sheriff Comer Fordham and LeRoy Wiggins and Tom Graham, farmers residing in the Mt. Airy section.

Sheriff J. Charlton Lewis said bloodhounds were carried to the scene of the assault a short time after it was reported and succeeded in following tracks to a point a short distance from Spivey's home.

The officer was emphatic in his statement that the dogs did not trail Spivey to his residence.

According to the victim, the attack occurred in a field near her home while she was enroute to visit a neighbor. She described her assailant as a masked Negro about 25 or 30 years of age.

UNABLE TO IDENTIFY MAN

Sheriff Lewis said he carried Spivey before the victim shortly after his arrest Tuesday night and that "she was unable to positively identify him."

"She said Spivey looked very much like the man who attacked her," the officer related, "but she could not say definitely. I later heard that the mob members took him before her and that she did positively identify him, but I don't know whether this is true."

Members of the mob apparently made no effort to conceal their identity. The few citizens here who continued to discuss the unprecedented occurrence today frankly divulged the identity of many in the group.

NO ACTION AGAINST MOB

Sheriff Lewis said no court action would be taken against the mob members.

"We are satisfied with their disposition of the case," he added.

The sheriff said he and two deputies were the only officers at the jail when the delivery was made.

"When the mob started," he related, "it was just a matter of a few seconds before they completely overpowered us, took the keys and removed the Negro."

A line of automobiles more than a mile long convoyed the suspect to the scene of his "trial" by the mob.

Sheriff Lewis said he called for assistance from the Georgia Highway Patrol early Tuesday afternoon. Three cars loaded with troopers arrived on the ccene, but the officer dismissed them about an hour later when members of the mob assured him they would disperse and not harm the Negro if no attempt was made to remove him to another jail for safekeeping.

"One of my best friends was the man that gave me that assurance," the officer said, "and I thought it would be best to do as they suggested and try to avoid the possibility of a lynching and maybe a gun battle between officers and the crowd. I later found that I was wrong in accepting the mob's proposal.

"I'm so thankful they brought that boy back and didn't kill him," the silvery haired sheriff said. "I never want to go through another experience like that. It almost killed me, and my wife, who suffers from heart trouble, almost died when the mob rushed into the jail."

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
June 27, 1941

Mob Returns Prisoner to Georgia Jail

Unprecedented 'Acquittal' Results When 'Victim' Fails To Confess.

EASTMAN, Ga., June 26.—(AP)—In what is believed an unprecedented "acquittal" in the usually lethal court of "Judge Lynch," a mob dragged a Negro from Dodge county jail and then returned him "for want of evidence."

Deputy Sheriff Gus Lewis said the suspect, Eddie Lee Spivey, 28, had been beaten but not seriously, and added, "it is my understanding that he wouldn't confess and the crowd didn't feel they could lynch him."

The assault upon a 65-year-old white woman occurred Tuesday in the Mt. Ariat section, and the Negro was jailed that night, the deputy said.

The mob began forming shortly after noon yesterday, grew to 500 or 700 persons last night and a section stormed the jail, guarded by half a dozen county officers.

Taken from his cell, the Negro was whisked out of town at the head of a line of some 100 automobiles. About midnight the Negro was returned to the jail where, Lewis said, he is held for grand jury action on a charge of attempted assault.

President F. D. Patterson, of Tuskegee Institute, a keeper of records on lynchings, said as far as he knew the Eastman occurrence was unprecedented.

Valdosta, Ga., Daily Times
June 28, 1941

A mob in Dodge county, Georgia, stormed the jail and sped away with a Negro who had been arrested as a suspect in a case in which an aged white woman had been assaulted. When the Negro refused to confess the crime, the mob grew uncertain and after administering a beating to the victim in which he was not seriously hurt, they returned him to jail. So far as records go this is the first time anything like that has ever occurred.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
June 28, 1941

A Fluke Lynching

A gang of men took a Negro prisoner from officers at Eastman, Georgia Thursday with the apparent intent of lynching him. The mob returned later with the prisoner whom they surrendered to the authorities. It was explained that no cause for lynching had been found after questioning and beating.

No similar case is known in the annals of mob law. It may be said that conscience made cowards of the mob. Rather a farfetched conclusion. It might be nearer the truth to say that failure to gain a confession from the prisoner created fear in the hearts of members of the mob.

We hold that a mob has no conscience. No group of conscientious men could usurp the prerogatives of the law and take a prisoner from the authorities for the expressed purpose of killing him. Georgia has escaped the stigma of the application of mob law, but not the consciousness that the spirit of the mob is not entirely dead in that state.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
July 9, 1941

Disappointment Not Appeased

A Georgia mob that took a negro out of jail to lynch him and, finding him innocent, returned him to the jail, fortunately for the jailer did not console themselves by lynching him.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Negro Is Indicted In Perry Death

Special to THE CONSTITUTION.

THOMSON, Ga., Sept. 4.—Henry White, Thomson Negro, was indicted by the grand jury in session this week for the murder of Byrd C. Perry Jr., taxi driver who was beaten to death on a road near here in July.

According to Sheriff Lynn J. Norris, White was arrested shortly after Perry's body was found on the Whiteoak road on July 22. The Negro was taken to Atlanta for safekeeping. Sheriff Norris said White was brought to Thomson Tuesday and was identified by another Negro as the man seen getting into Perry's taxi on the night of the killing.

The arrest was made by Sheriff Norris, assisted by Officers Louis Oliver and Mack Parker, of the state highway patrol.

White will probably go on trial in superior court, which is now in session.

Eastman, Ga. Advertiser
July 17, 1941

BALTIMORE SUN DISCUSSES EASTMAN "LYNCHING"

A friend has sent us a clipping of an editorial printed by the Baltimore Evening Sun, a large daily newspaper, in reference to the removal of the negro "Bay" Spivey from the Dodge County jail while he was charged with criminally assaulting a white woman. The editorial follows:

Something New in Georgia

Night before last a mob stormed the jail at Eastman, Ga., and made off with one Eddie Lee Spivey, colored, who was being held there as a suspect in a case of attempted assault against a 65-year-old woman. Yesterday the mob returned him, alive and but slightly damaged, "for want of evidence."

This is something truly remarkable. Very few mobs voluntarily return a prisoner with the remark that there wasn't enough evidence to warrant a lynching. The customary attitude is that he done it, and if he didn't he would of if he could of, and anyway we're all here in convention assembled and some of the boys that live 'way crosst the swamp have come a long ways and it wouldn't be right to disappoint them.

As to what prompted this partciular mob to depart from custom we have no idea, though we'd like to believe that it simply was revolted by the whole business and called it off. It could hardly be regarded as a victory for law and order. The mob simply "interrogated" the prisoner (who, incidentally, is still facing a charge of attempted assault) and handed him back to officers of the law, saying, in effect: "We find him innocent; but, of course, if you still want to try him . . . ."

Macon, Ga. Telegraph
September 10, 1941

In His Place

Editor The Telegraph:

In reply to Joseph M. Field's letter of Aug. 20. I regret very much Field being so disturbed over the recent educational controversy which was developed by our honorable governor in this state for I think it would be wiser for Field to be thinking more about what class he belongs in and obeying orders of some white man on a farm in this state instead of education or what the governor is doing.

We white people usually vote to put into ofifce the man we think is most capable of handling our state's affairs, and my motto is to put the Negro in the class he belongs in—and that is under the white man's orders instead of in a college.

I believe in protecting the Negro when he ought to be protected, and the Negro looks to the white people for protection, but I also believe in the Negro obeying orders from the white man.

And if every white man feels as I and the governor of this state do the Negro would be out at work at the task he was put here for instead of loafing around grieving about what the governor or any other white man has done or said, and would be a great help to stop him from feeling so ambitious and intelligent.

T. M. JONES.

Finleyson, Ga.

Macon, Ga. Telegraph
December 5, 1941

Trial Framed By Lynch Mob, Spivey Charges

The mob which returned him to jail alive promised to "legally lynch" Eddie Lee Spivey, the 22-year-old Dodge county Negro told a Bibb court jury in a brilliant 50-minute unsworn statement Thursday afternoon.

Spivey said the mob decided not to lynch him when the white victim failed to identify him as her attacker. But, he added, they said, "We can make evidence and send him to the electric chair."

Efforts to introduce "manufactured evidence" against him in court were cited by Spivey in two instances.

These included the state's hints that Spivey attacked a Negro woman, and proposed a date with a 7-year-old white girl. The Negro also called the jury's attention to some defense witnesses "backing down" on statements which Attorney D. Lee Churchwell said they had given him.

MAY END TODAY

The defense closed its testimony shortly after Spivey's statement.

Judge A. R. Ross of the Eastman city court made the opening statement for the prosecution.

The court adjourned for the night at this point.

Trial of the famed "Judge Lynch" case should be concluded today. Defense Attorney Churchwell and Solicitor Charles Garrett are to make their closing arguments when court opens at 9 a.m.

Spivey, by means of maps of his own, traced for the jury the path he said he took on the morning of the attack. They did not follow the path taken by the attacker. He urged the jurors to compare footprints which he made in a box of dirt in the courtroom with those sketched and described by Tom Graham, star state witness.

The Negro said the victim failed to identify him when the sheriff took him to her home. Then when the mob had him, members of the mob said she could not identify him as her attacker, he said.

When he was returned to jail, Spivey quoted Sheriff Lewis as stating, "You owe your life to that woman because she did not identify you."

Prior to Spivey's statement, Judge A. M. Anderson had not allowed any testimony concerning the mob's action, and had not permitted the state to present anything Spivey might have done or said the morning following the mob action.

Eufaula, Ala. Tribune
December 26, 1941

Four Lynchings In Southern States This Year

Tuskegee Institute reports four persons lynched in 1941—all negroes. This was one less than for 1940. There were 19 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings.

The offenses charged were: Attempted rape 1, suspected of stealing 1, altercation with white man 1, working on job from which whites had been discharged 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred an dthe number in each state are as follows: Flolrida 1; Georgia 1, North Carolina 1, South Carolina 1.

Macon, Ga., News
December 4, 1941

Negro Proclaims Innocence of Assault Charge

The same voice that talked an angry mob out of lynching him in Dodge county last June was turned in full eloquence on a 12-man jury in a legal trial in Bibb superior court today, as Eddie Lee Spivey, Negro, denied assaulting a white woman.

A charge that Sheriff Lewis of Dodge county threatened to let him be taken by a mob unless he confessed was made by Spivey. The Negro told of talking with the sheriff as the mob was around the jail. He quoted Lewis as stating he would transfer the prisoner to Macon or Atlanta if he confessed the crime. If not, he would be put back in jail, "and they'll get you tonight and burn you alive and there's nothing I can do about it." Spivey said he would not plead guilty to a crime he did not commit. He was returned to jail, and the mob took him a short time later.

* * *

TALKING for 50 minutes in an unsworn statement, Spivey made a calm appearance before the jury, looked the jurors in the face, and traced his actions for the jury over maps he had drawn of the vicinity in and near the crime.

Spivey said the victim failed twice to identify him as her attacker. The first time was when he was carried to her home by Dodge Sheriff J. C. Lewis. The second time was when a mob awaited her words as to whether to lynch him. Members of the mob and Sheriff Lewis were quoted by Spivey as telling him he owed his life to this woman, who had said she was not certain he was the right man.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
December 4, 1941

Accused Negro To Take Stand In Trial Today

Some of Eddie Lee Spivey's white witnesses were impeached by defense counsel yesterday, as Bibb superior court closed the third day in the trial of the Negro charged with raping a Dodge county white woman last June.

Spivey is expected to take the stand today.

Defense Attorney D. Lee Churchwell told the court that Witnesses Elza Peacock, William Peacock and B. H. Young had "backed down on what they told me before the trial."

He attempted to impeach Mrs. Maggie Moore, but the court ruled this witness had not entrapped him. Churchwell also had trouble with Mrs. Joe Brown, but this reluctant witness testified on cross-examination that Spivey had a good character.

FRIGHTENED BY CROWD

While the defense was having trouble with some reluctant witness, however, Mrs. Edna Haute testified that Spivey had a good reputation.

Moses and Harvey Spivey brothers of Eddie Lee, said officers carried them out and compared their footprints with those of the attacker, before they arrested Eddie Lee. Carrie Spivey, Eddie's mother, told of seeing a crowd forming around the jail. Lula Lampkin, Eddie's aunt, also told of seeing a crowd milling about the jail, and of talking with Eddie, who was praying. She said the attitude of the crowd frightened her.

STATE ENDS CASE

Efforts to show that Spivey had proposed a date with a 7-year-old white girl in some woods, and had torn a Negro woman's clothes off in an attempt to rape her, were made by Solicitor Charles Garrett. Spivey's second toes were no longer than his big toes, after taking the cross-examining defense witnesses' prints. Tom Graham, a star witness. All of the witnesses said they had not heard of these incidents.

Spiveys footprints were taken in court to refute prosecution witness testimony that the Negro's second toes were longer than his big toes. Churchwell said Spivey's second toes were no longer than the first toes. Tom Graham, a star witness for the defense, had testified he tracked Spivey by this distinguishing feature of his foot. The state closed its testimony Wednesday morning.

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Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Negroes Flee Town As Mob Action Looms

Racial Flare-up Reported Near Smyrna, Georgia

SEP 12 1941

Racial disturbances were reported underway Thursday in the little settlement of St. John, located near Smyrna, outgrowth of an alleged criminal attack on a white woman by a colored man.

The suspect, whose last name was given as Stephens, was reported in Fulton Tower for safe-keeping.

According to reports, colored residents living in the St. John settlement were ordered out of the section. These demands were said to have been made by a group of white men late Wednesday and Thursday.

Several colored families were known to have fled the town Thursday and some of them were seen here in Atlanta. Many of them feared for the safety of relatives who remained there.

Mobs, it was learned, formed only in St. John. However, it was stated that a group of whites invaded Marietta, seeking out the suspect.

The alleged incident is said to have taken place Saturday in St. John. Stephens was reported arrested Tuesday and rushed to Atlanta's Fulton Tower Wednesday when trouble began to flare.

Stephens, according to friends, was employed as a laborer and is married.

SEP 1 2 1941

Several of the colored families living in St. John were threatened, but it was not made clear whether any of them were attacked.

St. John is a very short distance from Smyrna where a recent racial disturbance caused considerable trouble.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

KILLS FARMER WHO SHOT AT HIM 3 TIMES

OCT 4 1941

Slaying Is Aftermath Of Argument Over Five Dollars

MATTHEWS, Ga.—L. M. Greenway, 42, white farmer and merchant, was slain late Sunday afternoon with a shotgun in the hands of King Toliver, citizen of Jefferson county.

The shooting occurred at Toliver's home when Greenway went there to collect five dollars Toliver owed him. After Toliver had explained that he didn't have the money, but would pay it as quick as possible Greenway became very angry and cursed several times. Toliver asked him to respect his family. Greenway continued to curse, then Toliver started into the house. Greenway fired three shots at Toliver, each one going wild.

OCT 4 1941

Toliver returned with a shotgun and fired two shots. One charge struck Greenway in the chest and the other in the right shoulder. He died instantly.

Toliver was arrested late Monday night by Sheriff Jim Hubbard of Jefferson county and placed in the Richmond county jail for safe keeping.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Negro Denies Knowledge Of Assault

DEC 23 1941

Robert Walker, Jones county Negro confined in the Bibb jail for safekeeping, Monday denied any knowledge of a criminal assault on a 40-year-old Gray white woman.

He declared he was not in town Sunday afternoon at the time the attack reportedly occurred.

The Negro said he had been visiting a home near the Jones county prison, and was picked up by Sheriff J. P. Hawkins as he was returning to Gray. He said he was not resisting arrest when he was wounded in the wrist by the sheriff. On the contrary, Walker contended he was reaching for his "unloaded" gun to "turn it over to the sheriff."

Sheriff Hawkins said the woman definitely identified Walker as her attacker. He reported that a pistol was stolen from the home where the victim was visiting shortly before the attack occurred. Walker said he bought the gun found on him, paying $2 for it from a man at a "skin game."

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

'Judge Lynch' Case Heads Week's Trials

NOV 30 1941

The famed "Judge Lynch" case and nine murder trials are scheduled in one criminal division of Bibb superior court this week, while a number of assault to murder cases and burglary charges are slated for the other division in the "double-header" session.

Granted a change of venue here from Dodge county, Eddie Lee Spivey, Negro whom a mob returned to jail after a weird "trial," will be tried on a charge of raping a white woman.

The mob took him from the Eastman jail to lynch him, then, after a "trial" that confused them as to whether they had the guilty party, they decided to let the law take its course.

ONE OF BIGGEST

In one of the biggest murder dockets in the history of the county, nine men are slated to go on trial for their lives this week. Involved in different cases, the defendants are: James Dowdell, Cecil Roland, Cecil Bryant, Floyd Daniel, Joe Turner, Walter Ridley, and Edward Smith.

If all of these parties come to trial and their hearings last as long as typical murder cases, it would take the court nearly a month to hear them, lawyers said.

VISITING JU

NOV 30 1941

A visiting judge, appointed by Governor Talmadge at the request of Judge A. M. Anderson so the court could operate two sessions simultaneously, will preside over one criminal division. He is Judge R. Earl Camp of the Dublin circuit. Assistant Solicitor Norman English will be the prosecuting attorney in this section.

Judge Camp's court will concern itself with wiping off numerous old cases on the docket, as well as hopping on the new indictments returned by the grand jury.

Scheduled for Monday in this court are eight cases of assault with intent to murder, and one of voluntary manslaughter.

Charlie Howard is to be tried for voluntary manslaughter. Defendants on assault charges include: Ralph and Alfred Elliott, J. L. Jackson, Cecil Johnson and Allease Walls, Doc Hart, Cleveland Brown, Tommie Lee Patterson, a[illegible]lis Lee Williams.

GARRETT TO PROSECUTE

Judge Anderson will preside over the other court, trying the murder cases and the "Judge Lynch" case. Solicitor Charles Garrett will be the prosecuting attorney.

In the civil division of Bibb superior court Monday, Judge Malcolm D. Jones will hear uncontested divorce suits.

City court will open its December term Dec. 8, with Judge Cecil Baldwin presiding and Solicitor Oscar Long as prosecutor.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Spivey Sues Dodge Sheriff

DEC 20 1941

Eddie Lee Spivey, the only man ever returned alive by a lynch mob, is suing the Dodge county sheriff for $5,000 for "failure to perform his duties."

The Dodge county Negro was acquitted by a Bibb county jury Dec. 5 of a charge of raping a white woman.

His attorneys, D. L. Churchwell and Robert S. Horne, filed suit Friday afternoon in Bibb superior court against Sheriff John C. Lewis of Dodge county and the National Surety Corporation of New York.

DEC 20 1941

Spivey claims the sheriff voluntarily turned the jail keys over to the mob June 25 at Eastman, so they could come in and get him. He contends the sheriff could have protected him, and could have moved him to a place of safety, but instead the officer voluntarily and willfully surrendered him to the mob to do what they wanted with him.

The Negro charges the sheriff disobeyed orders of Judge Eschol Graham, of Dodge county superior court, instructing him to move Spivey to Macon or somewhere for safety.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Jones Woman Accuses Negro Jailed Here

DEC 22 1941

Jones County Sheriff J. P. Hawkins said here last night that a wounded Negro being held in Bibb county jail for safekeeping had been positively identified by a 40-year-old Jones county white woman as the man who criminally assaulted her yesterday afternoon while she was visiting in the home of relatives at Gray.

The prisoner, docketed as Robert Walker, was brought to the Bibb jail by Hawkins and two state patrolmen after the sheriff had accosted him on a road near Gray.

Sheriff Hawkins said he had information that the suspect had entered the Gray home about 1

Just out of Gray we victim and members of her family with him. Just two state troopers who to say nothing of the crime until ring him on in. I took an arrest had been made. He then from my car and placed moved quickly to get Walker out he car belonging to the of the county. and we brought him on on." DEC 22 1941 asked if there had been of mob violence the ld he had cautioned the

Atlanta Ga. Journal
December 6, 1941

Court Frees Man 'Acquitted' by Mob

MACON, Ga., Dec. 6.—(AP)—A young Negro, once seized by a lynching mob that changed its mind and took him back to jail, was acquitted Friday of a charge of attacking a middle-aged farm woman.

A Superior Court jury deliberated an hour and 50 minutes after the week-long trial of Eddie Lee Spivey, 22-year-old farmer.

"I think the Lord has saved me for a purpose," Spivey said.

Last June a a mob stormed the Dodge County Jail and dragged the Negro out into the night. He was taken to woods near the home of the woman and two hours later was returned unharmed.

Officers said members of the mob told them they brought the Negro back for "lack of evidence."

Atlanta Ga Constitution
December 6, 1941

Young Negro, Once Seized By Mob, Freed

Bibb County Jury Acquits Spivey on Charge of Assault.

MACON, Ga., Dec. 5.—(AP)—A young Negro once seized by a mob bent on lynching him and then returned to jail voluntarily unharmed was acquitted today of a charge of assaulting a middle-aged white farm woman.

The Bibb county superior court jury deliberated one hour and fifty minutes after the week-long trial of Eddie Lee Spivey, 22-year-old farmer from near-by Dodge county. The public was excluded from the trial.

"I think the Lord has saved me for a purpose, to preach or teach or something for the carrying on of his work," Spivey said upon hearing the verdict. He protested his innocence in a 50-minute unsworn statement to the jury, permitted under Georgia law.

Last June, a mob stormed the Dodge county jail, dragged the Negro out into the night, went to woods near the home of the woman and then two hours later returned him unharmed. Officers said members of the mob said they brought him back for "lack of evidence."

The Negro told the jury that, after he pleaded his innocence to the mob, a delegation took him to see the woman, who said she couldn't identify Spivey.

At the trial, the state said the woman positively identified Spivey as the attacker after viewing him and two other Negroes, all masked. She said her attacker wore a mask. Defense counsel contended her vision was poor.

After the trial, Spivey was jailed again "for his own protection." There was no trouble here, where the trial was shifted on change of venue, but authorities said Spivey would be taken to another state and that his wife and two children already had moved from Dodge county.

Atlanta. Ga. Journal
December 8 1941

Lynch Law

IN BIBB SUPERIOR COURT last week came the end of the most unusual case of lynch law in Georgia annals. Last June, a young Negro farmer, accused of criminal assault, was removed from the Dodge County Jail by a mob which said it was going to lynch him. He was taken to the woods near the scene of the alleged crime; there he denied his guilt with such earnestness that doubts arose among the lynchers, and they sought the support of an identification. The victim could not be positive, and the Negro was taken back to jail, but not without severe maltreatment.

He was given a legal trial in a changed venue, was prosecuted by the able solicitor of the Bibb Court, and was found innocent by a jury of white men who required only one hour and fifty minutes to reach their verdict.

"I think the Lord saved me for a purpose," said the Negro, upon his release.

If the facts of the case of Eddie Lee Spivey bring to the consciousness of all Georgia the horror of the crime of lynching—the sheer anarchy of the act and the terrible uncertainty in the judgments so reached—then the Lord truly will have used his suffering and his exoneration for the good of our State.

Commercial appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

WEST POINT WOMAN ATTACKED BY NEGRO

FEB 12 1941

Hounds Lead To Home Of Robert Lee Burns

Special to The Commercial Appeal

WEST POINT, Miss., Feb. 11.—Accosted on her way home from work early Monday night, a young waitress employed at a local hotel was criminally assaulted by a negro, and Tuesday Sheriff Tom Saul said that a suspect, listed as Robert Lee Burns, was being held in an unannounced jail.

The sheriff said that Burns, a young negro student, was placed under arrest fater two hounds, rushed here from Meridian, followed a "doubleback" trail to the negro's house near the railroad crossing on North Division Street.

The officer said that the dogs went straight into the negro's room, and that Burns was found hiding under the bed.

The waitress, treated by a local physician, is suffering from shock and bruises.

The negro who attacked the young woman is said to have threatened her life after he had assaulted her.

Walking home from her work just as she always did in the evenings, the young woman was accosted near the C. & G. Railroad crossing on North Division Street.

The negro is said to have told her that he had been watching her walk home for two weeks.

Commercial appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

Shooter Of Auto Horn Tooter Still Is Being Hidden By Law

Special to The

GREENVILLE, Miss., July 29.—Sheriff Lamb Crouch said Tuesday that A. M. Blankenship, the 69-year-old Greenvillian, whose sleep was disturbed so often by the tooting of automobile horns that he shot and killed 21-year-old George Joest, of Rosedale, a Sunday night offender, is still being held incommunicado in an out-of-county jail.

Sheriff Crouch rushed the confessed slayer from the county jail here early Monday after he had heard rumors from Rosedale of high feeling in the community where Joest was born and raised.

No Charges Filed

No formal charges have been placed against Blankenship as yet, County Prosecutor Scott Thompson said Tuesday. The charges will not be made until after a formal hearing. The hearing originally was scheduled for Friday, but because of the removal of the confessed slayer, no date has yet been set for the hearing.

Interviewed here Tuesday afternoon, the two girls, Jessie Grady and Mayme Johns, in front of whose home the horn tooting slaying was said to have occurred, said they did not believe that they knew the victim.

Jessie Grady, a former Work Projects Administration worker, said that she at one time lived at Rosedale. She said that her husband was a fisherman on the river there, and that she had heard of older members of the victim's family. Her husband has been dead several years. Mayme Johns separated from her husband two years ago.

Girls Unemployed

Both of the girls said they were unemployed at present, but Mayme Johns said that she kept house for Jessie when the latter was working on the WPA. Their small shotgun house is less than 10 feet from the Blankenship residence. Both houses are similarly built and painted red. The Blankenship house is on the corner. There is a grocery store immediately across from the two houses.

Funeral services were held for young Joest in Rosedale Monday afternoon. The popular young University of Mississippi student would have graduated in January. He had been examined, and was awaiting a call to join the United States Army Air Corps.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Lynch Mob Finds Prisoner Gone From Gulfport Jail

OCT 25 1941

GULFPORT, Miss. — A would-be lynch mob of 50 armed men last week called at the Harrison county jail to visit "justice" upon 65-year-old Allen Bill Merritt, who is being held for the murder of Oscar Switzer, 26-year-old, white.

Jailer Charles Evans, who greeted the visitors with the news that their prey had been moved to another jail, received, at their insistence, a committee of three men with whom he talked at length.

When these three were finally convinced that Merritt was not on the premises the mob dispersed. Despite this protracted face-to-face conversation, Sheriff R. C. Edwins reported that none of the mob was recognized.

OCT 25 1941

Merritt claims self-defense in the slaying, stating that Switzer had attacked him with a knife when he (Merritt) did not respond when the white man hailed him as he walked along the Handsboro road.

Merritt allegedly stabbed Switzer three times in an attempt to save his own life. Two of the stab wounds were described as superficial, while the third penetrated to the heart.

Sheriff Edwins and Prosecuting Attorney Gaston Hewes report, from their investigation of the incident, evidence to indicate that the dead man had been struck several times with a blunt instrument.

The body which, they say, shows several bumps on the head and two broken teeth, already has been buried.

Found on Merritt's person at the time of his arrest was a worn sock containing 38 one dollar bills and one two dollar bill, evidently the savings of several years. Hewes has filed formal charges of murder against the suspect. Trial will be held at the next regular criminal term of Harrison county circuit court.

OCT 25 1941

Unfortunately, there are no suspects in the attempted lynching, as the jailer finds it impossible to identify any one of the 50 mobsters, including the three whom he interviewed.

Commercial appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

NEGRO WAIVES HEARING

OCT 23 1941

Held Under $5000 Bond At Tupelo On Assault Charges

TUPELO, Miss., Oct. 22.—Christine Jones, 16 year old negro in city jail charged with assault and battery with intent to kill and murder after an alleged assault on Mrs. J. T. Bramlett Tuesday, Oct. 15, waived preliminary hearing before Justice Jerry Troy here Wednesday morning.

The negro was returned to jail in lieu of posting a $5000 bond. The case has aroused considerable feeling here, and officers are holding their prisoner incognito for fear of reprisals.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Landlord Is Killed While Saving Tenant From Mob

SEP 10 1941

Feared Beating Would Result In Lynching

Investigation Underway; Race Man May Die

By SAMUEL HOSKINS

WINONA, Miss. — (ANP) — Succumbing to bullet wounds in the chest, Jim Stewart, former Webster county mail carrier, paid with his life for attempting to prevent an armed mob from beating one of his tenants to death, Monday night near the little village of Tomnolen.

SEP 10 1941

James Irving, a tenant on Stewart's farm, was being beaten by a small group of armed citizens, it was reported. Fearing that the alleged beating party would result in another Mississippi lynching, the white farmer was said to have interceded with the group, but was shot several times for his trouble. He died Tuesday a. m.

Irving was beaten so badly it is feared that he will not live. Sheriff J. P. Wright stated that he was holding three white men in connection with the homicide and beating. Two Negro men and a Negro woman were reportedly placed in the county jail. The sheriff stated that he is holding the Negroes in connection with the crime, but it is reputed from other sources that he fears for their safety.

The peace officer is allegedly carrying on an investigation, at the end of which, 1941 declares, charges will be filed.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Landlord Killed; Pleaded With Mob For Tenant's Life

SEP 20 1941

WINONA, Miss., Sept. 18—(ANP)—Succumbing to bullet wounds in the chest, Jim Stewart, former Webster county mail carrier, paid with his life for attempting to prevent an armed mob from beating one of his tenants to death, Monday night, near the little village of Tomnolen.

James Irving, a tenant on Stewart's farm, was being beaten by a small group of armed citizens, it was reported. Fearing that the alleged beating party would result in another Mississippi lynching, the white farmer was said to have interceded with the group, but was shot several times for his trouble. He died Tuesday morning.

Irving was beaten so badly it is feared that he will not live. Sheriff J. P. Wright stated that he was holding three white men in connection with the homicide and beating. Two Negro men and a Negro woman were reportedly placed in the county jail. The sheriff stated that he is holding the Negroes in connection with the crime, but it is reputed from other sources that he fears for their safety.

The peace officer is allegedly carrying on an investigation, at the end of which, he declares, charges will be filed.

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Times-Picayune
New Orleans, La.

SUSPECT ARRESTED ON ATTACK CHARGES

FEB 12 1941

(The Associated Press)

West Point, Miss., Feb. 11.—Sheriff Tom Saul early today arrested a Negro and placed him in an unannounced jail in connection with an alleged criminal attack case here.

The sheriff said a young white waitress was attacked last night while on her way home from work by a Negro who held a knife against her back and threatened death if she screamed. The woman was under treatment today for shock.

Later a Negro was arrested after being trailed by bloodhounds brought here from Meridian.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

MOB PAYS JAIL 'VISIT' BUT NEGRO IS GONE

Harrison County Sheriff Transfers Suspect

OCT 12 1941

Special to The Commercial Appeal

GULFPORT, Miss., Oct. 11.—A mob of about 50 men, most of them armed, who visited the Harrison County jail here Friday night seeking Allen Bill Merritt, 65, negro, who the previous day had stabbed Oscar Switzer, 26, to death at Handsboro, found their quarry gone.

Earlier in the day Sheriff Edwins, who had received a tip that mob violence was being threatened, moved the negro, former insane asylum inmate, to an unannounced jail.

The mob after being assured by Jailer Charles Evans that Merritt was not here, departed in an orderly manner, officers stated. None of the men was recognized, Sheriff Edwins said.

OCT 12 1941

Merritt, officers said, admitted having stabbed Mr. Switzer, but claimed that he acted in self defense after the white man had attacked him. Mr. Switzer, who leaves a wife and two small children and was a member of a well known Coast family, was stabbed in the chest three times.

Gulfport, Miss. Herald
October 11, 1941

Thwart Lynch Attempt

NEGRO HELD IN MURDER CASE SPIRITED AWAY

Approximately 50 armed men who visited the Harrison county jail early last night failed in their attempt to lynch Allen Bill Merritt, 65-year-old negro charged with murdering Oscar Switzer, 26. The object of their wrath had been transferred to another jail.

The stabbing occurred late Thursday afternoon at the Handsboro community. Arrested by Deputy A. W. Lang and County Patrolman Ernest Klein, Merritt told authorities he stabbed Switzer in self-defense. Switzer died before reaching the hospital in Gulfport.

Three stab wounds were found in the region of the victim's heart, but only one of the wounds extended to the vital organ.

Sheriff R. C. Edwins, who with Gaston Hewes, county prosecuting attorney, made a thorough investigation of the slaying, said he found evidence which indicated Switzer had been struck repeatedly with a blunt instrument. Two of the victim's front teeth were broken and several bumps were found on his head, the sheriff said.

Sheriff Edwins said he spirited Merritt away from the Harrison county jail early yesterday morning. At about 9 o'clock last night, the 50 armed men arrived at the Harrison county jail and demanded that Merritt be released to them.

Jailer Charles Evans, who was on duty at the time, told the men Merritt had been taken to another jail. When the mob hooted at his statement and threatened to break down the door, Mr. Evans received a committee of three men who talked with him at length. The assembly dispersed when they reported the negro had been removed.

Sheriff Edwins said none of the mob was recognized.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

Good Work, Sheriff Edwins

OCT 13 1941

Informed that a group of armed men planned to visit the Harrison, Miss., county jail to attempt to take from him a negro slaying suspect, Sheriff Edwins promptly took steps to remove him to a place of greater security, and thus had the situation completely in hand before the outraged citizens arrived.

Such action on the part of those responsible for the safekeeping of prisoners has become the rule rather than the exception in the South, but even so, it is always to be commended. Quick-thinking, courageous officers like Sheriff Edwins who dare the censure of neighbors that they may do their duty are constantly proving that the South is not only thoroughly capable of removing but will eliminate the repugnant practice of summary justice.

OCT 13 1941

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NORTH CAROLINA

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Not the First Time

OCT 25 1941

THE commendable action of the Roxboro (Person County) North Carolina grand jury in bringing indictments against 10 members of a mob that recently stormed the county jail in an effort to lynch a man suspected of crime is not the first time that Carolina law has laid a hand upon would-be lynchers. In 1925, 11 men were convicted in Asheville for storming the Buncombe county jail in a similar adventure and they served sentences ranging from four to eight years in the state penitentiary.

Local communities rarely act single-handed to apprehend and bring into the courts men who try to take the law into their own hands. Positive and effective action usually starts with the Governor and Superior Court Judges. Governor Broughton put the State Bureau of Investigation into the Person county case and their findings started Judge Henry W. Grady on a grand jury proceeding which resulted in the indictments.

It is now up to the Solicitor and the trial jury. Present indications are that if the State's case is good, North Carolina is about to give another strong rebuke to lynch law.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
October 15, 1941

The Unfinished Task

The fight to stamp out hoodlumism and mob violence in North Carolina got off to a fine start last August 16 when the sheriff of Person county outwitted the attempt of a mob to take a Negro prisoner out of the Roxboro jail.

The sheriff's quick thinking and courageous action was followed by Governor Broughton's orders to the State Bureau of Investigation to probe the mob's action at Roxboro, ascertain the names of mob leaders and turn its information over to the state prosecutor and the Person county grand jury.

This week the Person grand jury had in its hands a confidential report from the State Bureau of Investigation. And from the bench of the Person superior court, Judge Henry W. Grady in outspoken language ordered the grand jurors to bring to justice the "misguided hoodlums and inconsequential nobodies" who attempted to deliver from the Roxboro jail and lynch a Negro charged with criminal assault upon a white girl.

"You and I are white men," Judge Grady said. "As white men we make the laws of this State. The Negro hasn't anything to do with making the laws."

"We as white men hold the Negro up to the same laws that white men observe. Yet I blush to admit there are white people in North Carolina who think the Negro should not have as fair a trial as white men."

Judge Grady's appeal to the white man's sense of decency and civic responsibility should burn in every grand juror's ears. If the white race is responsible for the laws it is the business of that race to enforce the statutes impartially, equitably, and to see that the white people no less than the Negroes comply with them. True justice has no double standards. In a sound social order there cannot be one kind of justice for one group and another type of justice for another group. Such double standards may exist for a while in totalitarian states, but if so they serve only to presage the eventual destruction of such states and the ultimate triumph of equity and human decency.

Just what is in the confidential report has not been ascertained by the press. But it is understood to include the names of some mob leaders. Fair-minded white citizens of North Carolina hope that it has listed every ringleader and every other person who actively attempted to storm the jail building, breaking windows and throwing rocks, in the August rioting scene.

This sort of thing has gone far enough in North Carolina. It is the duty of all good citizens to discourage rioting and disorders by irresponsible, unthinking groups who make hoodlum holiday when some member of the Negro race commits or is accused of committing a major crime. To fail in this duty is not merely to perpetrate injustice and trample down the public decencies. It is to sow the seeds of hatred for tomorrow's bitter harvest.

The people of North Carolina should be satisfied with no half-hearted measures at Roxboro. They should be tolerant of no whitewashing process, but insist that the good work so well initiated in this affair be carried to its logical, lawful and just conclusion: The arrest, trial, conviction and punishment of all those responsible for the disgraceful August mob scene in Roxboro. Nothing else can serve to blot out the stain on the name of the State. Nothing else will fairly serve justice and social decency.

Columbia, S. C. Record
October 23, 1941

Improving Its Record.

At Roxboro, N. C., a grand jury has indicted ten men in connection with the attempted lynching of a Negro in Person county last August 15.

The lynching was prevented by a determined sheriff and his deputies who removed the prisoner, accused of rape, to the state prison.

North Carolina has a rather good record with regard to lynching. By moving to punish lynchers after defeating them in their desire to commit murder, North Carolina is on the way to improving this record still further. The lyncher is a person who doesn't want to risk his own neck. He operates in crowds and only when the odds are all in his favor.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
October 15, 1941

Make Report Public

The report of the S.B.I. on the attempted lynching in Person County last August was properly held as confidential pending its consideration by the Person County grand jury, which began yesterday. But the report should by all means be made public as soon as the grand jury acts, whatever that action may be.

The history of the case to date can be summarized briefly. A wholly inexcusable attempt was made to thwart due process of law in the case of a Negro charged with rape. The lynching was averted, but serious property damage was done to the jail and to automobiles belonging to the State Highway Patrol and others. Although the mob acted in open and brazen defiance of the law, none of its members have been arrested. An investigation was made by the S.B.I. on orders from Governor Broughton and yesterday a Person grand jury was given the report of that investigation in confidence and was vigorously admonished by Superior Court Judge Henry A. Grady to "bring them all to justice."

It remains to be seen what the grand jury will do. Whatever it does or does not do, the public should know the contents of that report. Only with that information in possession will the public be in a position to judge all of the public agencies involved. And this is definitely a public matter, affecting the good name of the State itself and all the people of the State as well as the people of Person County.

Sheriff M. T. Clayton of Person County deserves much credit for preventing the lynching. But he has woefully failed to complete his job by failing to apprehend members of the mob. Governor Broughton has performed his duty in directing a full and complete investigation and Judge Grady has performed his duty in acquainting the grand jury with its duty and responsibility.

Only after perusal of the S.B.I. report can any judgment be formed as to the manner in which that agency has performed its duty and only until it is known what evidence the grand jury had before it can the action of that body, whatever that action may be, be appraised fairly.

The report of the S.B.I. should be made public.

Asheville, N. C. Citizen
October 15, 1941

Anti-Lynching Action Nearing Trial Stage

Person Jury Is Ordered To Bring Leaders 'To Justice'

ROXBORO, Oct. 14. (AP) — The first anti-lynching prosecution in North Carolina's recent history approached a step near to the trial stage today, when a Person county grand jury began investigating the action of an armed mob which tried in vain to snatch a negro from jail here August 15.

The negro, Cy Winstead, was indicted yesterday on charges of raping a white woman.

The 17-man grand jury went immediately into executive session after receiving explicit orders from superior court Judge Henry A. Grady of New Bern to "bring the ringleaders to justice." The white-haired judge, a veteran of almost 20 years' experience on the bench, described those ringleaders as "misguided hoodlums and inconsequential nobodies," and said Governor Broughton was horrified and outraged by the near-lynching.

Witnesses Are Examined

The jury first studied a report by the state bureau of investigation, and then examined close to a score of witnesses.

Court attaches expressed the opinion that the jury would decide soon — perhaps tomorrow—whether indictments should be issued against eight or ten persons mentioned by name in the SBI report, which has not been made public.

One of the reasons advanced for the establishment in 1938 of the SBI was that it would be of assistance in the prosecution of lynching cases. The Roxboro case is the first mob action since that time.

So far as could be learned, the only information which the grand jury had at its disposal this morning at the beginning of its investigation was the SBI report.

SBI agents, a policeman, and Solicitor William H. Murdock of Durham were among the persons summoned by the jury, in all-day deliberations.

Judge Grady's charge lasted only 10 minutes but left no doubt as to his views on lynching in general and the Roxboro outbreak in particular.

Story Of Negro Related

He began by telling the story of LeRoy Wagstaff, Alamance county negro who was sentenced to death on charges of raping a white woman two years ago. While Wagstaff was on death row, the prosecutrix and a white man, both of whom had testified against the negro, confessed that they had lied, Judge Grady said.

The two white people now are in jail for perjury; the negro's death sentence has been commuted, and he's going to be pardoned, the judge continued.

"I'm telling you this so that you can see what a horrible thing it would have been if Wagstaff had been lynched," Judge Grady said.

"You and I are white men. As white men we make the laws of this state. the negro hasn't anything to do with making the laws.

"We as white men hold the negro up to the same laws that white men observe. Yet, I blush to admit, there are some white people in North Carolina who think the negro shouldn't have as fair a trial as a white man.

"Governor Broughton is horrified and outraged to have such a thing as this near-lynching happen in the good old state of North Carolina, where we profess to be honest and Christian gentlemen.

"I'm charging and directing you now to make a sweeping investigation of all phases of this near-lynching. It's your duty to bring every member of that mob to justice if you can."

Judge Grady indicated that, if indictments were returned by the grand jury, a special term of court would be called to try the defendants.

If this were done, Winstead also might be tried at that time. Otherwise, his trial would be held in January.

The defendants, if any, might be tried on charges of inciting to riot, destroying property, disorderly conduct, or attempting to take a prisoner from a jail with intent to do harm, Solicitor Murdock said.

The last charge carries the heaviest sentence—up to 15 years in jail.

The mob which stormed the jail last August 15 tossed stones and bottles through windows and fired pistols into the air during the fracas, negroes from a CCC camp turned out, apparently to protect Winstead from the mob. The riot was broken up with tear gas.

Union, S. C., Times
October 16, 1941

10 Indicated For Lynching Attempt

By FRANK GILBRETH

ROXBORO, N. C., Oct. 16.—(AP)—A superior court grand jury indicted 10 men here today on a misdemeanor charge in connection with an attempted lynching of a negro in the Person county jail at Roxboro last August 15. The negro was charged with raping a white woman.

Judge Henry A. Grady of New Bern, immdely issued capiases for their arrest and bond was fixed at $500 for each. He said that he would ask Governor Broughton to call a special term of court for next month at which they would be tried.

The men named in the indictment were:

Coy Harris, P. I. Holt, Willie Aiken, Johnnie Holt, Leb Dixon, William Green, W. G. Bradsher, Thomas Slaughter, A. P. Spriggs, and Evon James.

They were charged with unlawful assembling for an unlawful purpose in attempting to take a negro, Cy Winstead, from the jail and breaking windows and doors at the courthouse in which the jail was situated.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

IS THIS JUST ANOTHER BLUFF?

A special Roxboro, N.C., grand jury recently indicted ten white men on the charge of storming the county jail in an attempt to lynch a prisoner, breaking doors, windows and using firearms.

The investigation which resulted in identifying members of the mob was undertaken by a State bureau under orders of the governor.

Of course an indictment isn't a conviction, but so far so good.

The energetic Governor Broughton has taken the first step and it is now up to the courts to carry on.

Defending a prisoner and spiriting him away from a mob is not enough. An anti-mob law is not enough.

The way to end mob rule is to put the mob in jail. Once the mob leaders have had a taste of one prison, they will not be so anxious to break into another.

We'll be watching to see whether North Carolina means to discourage mob violence or whether it is just kidding.

Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
August 18, 1941

Preventing a Lynching

When a mob of 500 gathered around the Roxboro, North Carolina, jail to throw sticks, stones, pop bottles and other objects at the structure and demand the deliverance of a 22-year-old Negro charged with assaulting a white girl, Sheriff M. T. Clayton got busy.

He did four things:

He sent to Durham for reinforcements from the Durham police department.

He called on the state highway patrol for assistance in keeping the mob out of the jail.

He gathered up his own men to defend the jail, and peppered the mob with tear gas bombs.

At an opportune moment he slipped the Negro out of the Roxboro jail and carried him in a car to the state prison in Raleigh.

Result: There was no lynching.

The action of the Roxboro mob was a disgrace to that community and the state. But the attitude and action of Sheriff Clayton was a distinct credit to all North Carolina.

His courageous, humane and sensible conduct under very trying and dangerous circumstances tends to bring out in bold relief the reason why North Carolina has had no lynching within its borders in several years. Our sheriffs are coming more and more to the practice of defending and protecting their prisoners under circumstances of this sort.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
August 20, 1941

How About The Mob?

Quick results have followed Governor Broughton's demand for an investigation of the action of the Negro CCC camp near Roxboro who "marched" on the Person County jail early last Saturday morning to do battle with a mob which was attempting to lynch a Negro prisoner charged with rape. Army officers charged with maintaining discipline in CCC camps have descended upon Roxboro and a thorough investigation is underway.

But surely this will not be the only investigation to follow this disgraceful affair! What about the mob itself? Is there to be no investigation of it and no arrest of its members? The Governor acted properly in calling for disciplinary action against the Negro CCC youths whose ill-considered action was calculated to further arouse race feeling already overheated. But, after all, there could have been no "march" against the mob had there been no mob.

Apparently no action has been taken against any member of the mob. The head of the SBI has been quoted as stating he has not been requested by either the Governor or the local authorities to make an investigation to determine who was in the mob.

Sheriff Clayton was commended justly by Governor Broughton for the performance of his duty in averting a lynching. The sheriff deserves much credit for that, but he will not have done his full duty until he has placed under arrest members of the mob which sought to take the law in its hands to the extent of committing murder and which actually inflicted damage upon the jail.

Now that the Governor has received full cooperation from the Federal authorities in his request upon them for action, he should call upon the officers of the State itself to do their duty in the apprehension and conviction of members of the mob.

This affair should not be allowed to end with the trial of the alleged rapist and the punishment of Negro CCC enrollees who acted indiscreetly. Members of the mob were guilty of more than indiscretion and should be treated according to their deserts.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
August 21, 1941

Worthy Laudation.

To The Observer:

North Carolinians and all other Southerners who are devoted to justice and democratic government owe an everlasting debt of gratitude to Sheriff M. T. Clayton and the courageous group of men who last Friday night helped him fight off a mob in Roxboro that tried to seize a Negro held in jail on a charge of rape. Sheriff Clayton and his associates deserve to be honored for their defense of American institutions against the spirit of lawlessness that the mob in Roxboro personified; and his determined action should be held up as an example to every law-enforcement officer in the South, or anywhere else in the country, whose duties may ever confront him with a similar problem.

The attempt of that Roxboro mob to seize the Negro and lynch him was an act of pure anarchy; for anarchy is nothing more nor less than lack of government, lack of respect for duly established law. Does the action of those 500 men in the mob at Roxboro mean that there are 500 anarchists in that neighborhood? I cannot believe so. Rather, I believe, it means that 500 men, understandably outraged by the crime of which the Negro was accused, were temporarily led by a spirit of mass hatred to the point of attempting a deed that most of the men, taken individually and in a saner moment, would themselves have condemned. Most of us ordinary mortals are subject to innumerable human weaknesses, and our actions are determined by many other influences besides our coolest and wisest intelligence. Submerged in crowds and swayed by emotion, we are capable of joining in actions that are utterly contradictory to our own individual principles.

Far from evidencing any less hatred than the mob for the crime this Negro is accused of, Sheriff Clayton and his associates showed by their action that their hatred of this crime and all crime is greater than the mob's, for they defended the orderly processes of justice and law against a group of men bent on revenging one crime by committing another. (Let no one argue that such a vengeance would not have been a crime; any punishment becomes a crime if it is carried out by unauthorized persons without giving the victim, however heinous his offense, the benefit of a just and orderly trial.)

Sheriff Clayton's action is a triumph for those very principles of justice that are being so seriously threatened by the forces of tyranny elsewhere in the world today. I do not doubt that many of the very men who made up that mob in Roxboro will come to honor Sheriff Clayton for his courage in having prevented their worser selves from committing, in a moment of blind hatred, an act that their better selves would later have regretted and condemned. As for the ringleaders of the mob, we have a right to expect prompt and vigorous measures to be taken to have them arrested and prosecuted according to the very principles of law and justice that they attempted to deny to a fellow criminal.

WILLIAM EDGERTON.

Guilford College.

Birmingham, Ala., News
August 17, 1941

Head Of CCC Is Asked To Look Into Negroes' March On Courthouse

RALEIGH, N. C.—(AP)—Gov. J. M. Broughton said Saturday that he had requested the head of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Washington to make an "immediate investigation" of the march of a group of Negro CCC boys on the Person County Courthouse during disorder attending an attempted lynching in Roxboro Friday night.

Broughton described the Roxboro disorders as "very serious with a whole lot of shooting and it was a wonder no one was killed."

The governor said he was informed a group of Negro CCC youths marched from their camp on the outskirts of Roxboro toward the courthouse while a mob was milling around the courthouse demanding Cy Winstead, 22-year-old Negro, charged with attacking a girl. The CCC youths got within 150 yards of the courthouse when they were dispersed by shots fired from the mob at the courthouse.

"There is still a lot of feeling in Roxboro," the governor said, "and I have instructed the patrol to continue to aid Roxboro officers the rest of the day and night.

He said he wanted to praise highly Sheriff M. T. Clayton, of Person County, for his conduct of the situation.

Roanoke, Va., World News
September 8, 1941

What a Sheriff Can Do

(Norfolk Virginian-Pilot)

The mob story from Roxboro, North Carolina, contains a solemn warning of how costly the mob spirit is below the surface and of how carefully it must be watched if it is not to flare up. Here is a State that takes a special pride in its handling of cases which sometimes have led to lynchings. A storm of protests followed the announcement a few weeks ago that Tuskegee Institute classified a North Carolina homicide last April as a lynching. A score of North Carolina newspapers protested against what they called a slur on the State's name. Yet in Roxboro it was a touch-and-go matter whether a real mob, bent on murder in one of its worst forms, would succeed in its purposes.

The other side of this story is more cheering. It shows how officers of the law can meet this threat. There was no lynching in Roxboro because a determined sheriff, whose name, M. T. Clayton, deserves to be remembered, and his determined deputies withstood a siege in a jail, refused to give up against threatening assaults, succeeded in summoning aid, and eventually got away to Raleigh with their prisoner untouched.

Weak officers, cowardly officers, purely political officers or merely indifferent officers would have surrendered. These officers were of finer quality. They have performed an act of exceptional courage—one that calls for high commendation.

Roxboro, N. C. Courier
August 16, 1941

YOUNG WHITE WOMAN ALLEGEDLY ASSAULTED FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Mobsters Storm Courthouse In Futile Effort to Take Cy Winstead By Force—Officers Drive Off Invaders With Tear Gas Bombs

PRISONER REMOVED TO RALEIGH UNDER HEAVILY ARMED GUARD

Cy Winstead, a burley 20-year-old negro man who was arrested late yesterday afternoon by Sheriff M. T. Clayton on a charge of criminally assaulting a 22-year-old white girl who resides near Roxboro, was carried to Central Prison in Raleigh shortly before dawn today under a heavily armed guard after a mob that had milled about the Person county courthouse most of the night threatened to storm the building and remove the negro by force from the jail, which is located on the third floor. Only one real effort was made to get into the building and that was quickly curbed with tear gas bombs.

For the most part, the mob contented itself with hurling empty beer and soft drink bottles secured from cases sitting in front of a nearby bottling company and throwing rocks, sticks and stones ,or whatever they could lay their hands on at the moment, in the direction of the courthouse. Seven of the large plate glass doors of the courthouse and hundreds of small window panes were shattered in the bombardment. Damage to the building was tentatively estimated this morning at "about $1,000".

Winstead was in the custody of officers within 40 minutes after the crime had been reported to Sheriff Clayton. The sheriff said today that the arrest was made at the home of Victor Dunn north of here and that the negro offered no resistance. "He was pretty badly scared," the officer commented, "when he saw all our cars come rolling up to the house". The culprit, discovered standing at the rear of the house, was handcuffed by Sheriff Clayton, who brought him here and lodged him in jail.

The victim, foster daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Dunn, told the sheriff she had gone to a spring about 300 yards from the Dunn home to water a cow. The negro saw her and came running toward her across a field. He grasped her [illegible] mouth, threw her to the ground and threatened to "cut her throat" if she screamed and accomplished his purpose. She is under the care of a physician and was reported today to be as well as can be expected under the circumstances.

Winstead was employed by Nick Dunn, local taxicab owner who has a small farm in the Dunn settlement just beyond the city limits in the vicinity of Longhurst. His employer said last night that he was a good worker and so far as he knew had never been in any trouble before.

Early last night a throng of people began to collect in little groups about the streets but there was no noise, no rioting until about 11:00 P. M. Sheriff Clayton, Patrolman W. A. Baxter, Police Chief G. C. Robinson and two members of his department, Officers Gilbert Oakley and A. L. Watson, barricaded themselves in the courthouse just in case there was trouble. Scattered shots were fired, some at random and others aimed at the courthouse, shortly before midnight. Then the siege began in earnest. Yells, catcalls, cries of "Let's go get him!" mingled with the sound of breaking glass as the missiles hurled by the mobsters crashed against windows and doors in the courthouse.

At two o'clock, County Attorney R. P. Burns, calling from the desk at Hotel Roxboro, contacted Captain Charles D. Farmer, director of the state highway patrol, by long distance. He outlined the situation to the state officer, who promised immediate aid. Earlier, Mr. Burns had sought to contact Governor J. M. Broughton but had failed to arouse anyone at the Executive Mansion.

In the meantime, Chief Robinson had called Chief Bishop of the Durham police department, who also promised to send help. Officers from Durham and Raleigh arrived about the same time. There were 42 Durham police headed by Major Bishop and six carloads of highway patrolmen headed by Lieutenants Moore and Lambeth. The patrolmen had brought tear gas bombs and a machine gun.

Prior to arrival of these officers, the courthouse defenders had received reinforcement from the local police department and from highway patrolmen and other officers in nearby cities who answered the call for help. A tear gas screen was laid in the main corridor of the courthouse, with officers moving from room to room to escape its fumes as best they could. Although none of the policemen was overcome, several of them were affected temporarily by the gas fumes.

Each of the four doors giving admittance to the building was under guard by officers who kept a watchful eye for any attempt to storm the building. The fumes from the tear gas bombs became so unbearable, however, that the officers finally moved up the steps to the second floor, where they posted lookouts at windows. A mob estimated at ten to fifteen men ran up the back steps of the building, entered the main corridor and attempted to reach the staircase leading to the jail. They were driven back by tear gas and made no further effort to take Winstead out by force.

Patrolmen in six cars, with Winstead a prisoner in the third vehicle, formed an armed guard taking him to Raleigh and to prison. The trip was uneventful, it was reported here today. By the time the negro was taken from jail by the officers the mob had scattered for the most part, although there were still many people milling about the streets.

What might have turned into a race riot last night was nipped in the bud. Word reached the group in the business district that negroes were organizing on Gallows Hill, local negro quarter, for a march on the courthouse. Several cars of armed men met them about halfway downtown and quickly scattered the gathering. They were not disbanded, however, until after some damage had been done to automobiles by rocks and other missiles allegedly hurled by the negroes.

The highway patrol car of Patrolman Sutton, who was here to assist local police, was stolen from where it was parked on the streets. It was found later on South Main street, abandoned.

Mr. Burns and Lieutenant Moore made short speeches to the mob early this morning, appealing to them to abandon their purpose and go home.

Preliminary hearing for Winstead in County Court on Tuesday, August 26, may be foregone, it was rumored here today. If so, he will not face trial until the October term of Superior Court.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

N. C. JURY INDICTS MOBSTERS

ROXBORO, N. C., Oct. 23—A grand jury Thursday indicted 10 white men for storming Persons county jail August 15 in an unsuccessful attempt to lynch a Negro named Winstead, charged with attacking a white woman. Mob of armed men, some wearing masks, stormed the jail on the top floor of the Courthouse building but were dispersed by tear gas. Conviction carries maximum jail sentence of two years and the 10 will be tried in special November term of court to be called by Governor Broughton.

Indictments followed two and a half day probe with 20 witnesses heard. Judge Henry A. Grady of Newbern, former state Ku Klux Klan head, at start of probe described mobbists as "Misguided hoodlums and inconsequential nobodies" and after indictment praised action as "Heartening to law-abiding people of state."

The indicted men were Coy Harris, P. I. Holt, Willie Aiken, Johnny Holt, Leb Dixon, William Green, Thomas Slaughter, A. P. Spriggs, Evon Jar[illegible]ndrew G. Bradsher, brother of Sue Bradsher, Clerk Circuit Court in Roxboro. Five of accused were mill workers. Willard I. Gatlin of State Bureau of Investigation conducted the probe.

Columbia, S. C. State
October 31, 1941

No Special Term For Would-Be NC Lynchers

Raleigh, N. C., Oct. 30—(AP)—After a conference with Solicitor William Murdock, Governor Broughton announced today that he would not call a special term of Person county superior court for the trial of ten persons on charges of attempting to storm the Person county jail in an attempted lynching.

Governor Broughton said that the trial probably would be held during a one-week term of Person superior court scheduled to begin on January 26. Judge R. Hunt Parker is due to preside.

Solicitor Murdock told the governor that he would be so busy in other courts of the district that a special term in Person for the trial would be inadvisable.

The Person county grand jury handed down an indictment on October 16 charging the ten men with unlawful assembly in the vicinity of the Person courthouse for the purpose of forcing the sheriff to hand over to them Cy Winstead, a Negro who is charged with rape.

The attempted lynching occurred on August 15.

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NORTH CAROLINA

Durham, N. C., Morning Herald—
August 21, 1941

The Follow Through

Although many fall down on the first test, on account of indifference, shallow courage or inward sympathy for mob, the really hardest thing for law enforcement officers mixed up in an attempted jail rush by a mob is to round up leaders of the mob after the prisoner has been saved from them.

As a practical proposition, local officers—sheriffs and police chiefs—need and ought to have the fullest cooperation of State officials, like the Governor, and State agencies, like the SBI, in searching out the guilty parties and bringing them to the bar of justice.

So, we concur in the general verdict that while Governor Broughton moved properly in asking Federal authorities to investigate association of enrollees of a nearby Negro CCC Camp with the Roxboro mob performance, he forfeited applause for that act for failing to move with equal speed and vigor in insisting that State agencies assist Sheriff Clayton in investigating association of "others" with the same mob performance.

The Negro CCC enrollees, deserving of punishment to the extent they participated in the shameful affair, did not originate the Court House square mob. Somebody initiated the deviltry the CCC enrollees, according to reports, made attempts to horn in on. And the initiators, figure it by any standard you wish, hit a harder blow at law and order than would-be interveners and ought to be held as strictly accountable.

Sheriff Clayton and his aides, we have already said here, performed well under trying circumstances and earned the applause immediately accorded.

It is part of his duty, of course, to follow through by ascertaining who recruited and egged on the crowd and stand them before judge and jury. And anything short of that will leave the sheriff open to just criticism.

We must say again, however, that the practicalities of the situation, known to all, require that the Governor order to the sheriff's side all of the help State agencies at his command afford.

Huntsville, Ala., Times
August 27, 1941

10 Negro CCC Youths Dropped For Mob Part

ROXBORO, N. C., August 27 (AP)—Ten members of a negro Civilian Conservation Corps camp near here were dropped from the CCC rolls as state and county officers continued today an investigation of a mob disturbance on August 16, when a crowd of men attempted to take an alleged negro rapist from the Person county jail in Roxboro.

Lieut. J. J. Hochstim, a special CCC investigator, announced the dismissals.

Hochstim began an investigation after Governor J. M. Broughton had protested to CCC headquarters against the reported action of a number of CCC members in marching toward the jail, apparently to help in defending the suspect, Cy Winstead, from the mob. They did not reach the scene, however, as shots from the crowd caused them to disperse.

Winstead was taken to state prison in Raleigh after officers in the jail had discouraged the crowd outside by using tear gas.

Durham, N. C., Morning Herald
August 28, 1941

Is This To Be End Of Case

Ten Negro CCC enrollees have been discharged for participating or undertaking to participate in the disorders around the Person County Court House on night of Aug. 16, when a crowd assembled and made motions to take from jail a Negro accused of assaulting a white girl.

Four more were exonerated by Lieut. J. J. Hochstim, special investigator when it was established that they were in the Court House area on night in question, but not at time of the disturbance.

On the day discharge of the Negro CCC enrollees was announced, the Roxboro Police Court judge acquitted a Roxboro white man, arrested on night of the mob demonstration, on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon—revolver.

Highway Patrolman Sutton, arresting officer, testified that the accused, A. P. Spriggs, had a revolver tucked under the waistline of his trousers, at time of arrest. He testified, too, that the gun appeared as if it had been fired recently and supply of bullets, 29, were found in Spriggs' pocket.

Mr. Spriggs, we are told, admitted in court that he had the gun, fired it once (into the air) and was in the Court House section during the disturbance, but challenged point that the gun was concealed. Handle, he insisted, was above his waistline and visible.

At about the same time SBI (State Bureau of Investigation) agents appeared on the scene to probe the mob performance and assist in making arrests, if and where necessary.

Well, it is as ignoble for newspaper editors to presume to try cases as it is for citizens to join a mob and take over duties of law enforcement officers and courts. And we are ready as the next to acknowledge that it is much easier to sit behind a typewriter and proclaim what should be done, how and by whom, than it is for men in the responsible slot to do what editorialists say should be done.

Nevertheless, it seems to us the record to date strongly suggests, if it does not prove, that thus far it is fair to say that some of the least offenders, who no doubt deserved punitive treatment, have been punished and worst offenders spared much bother.

In the concealed weapon case, a gun isn't concealed, of course, if it is visible to average onlooker and the recorder's verdict of acquittal, technically at least, is by the book. It may fairly be observed, however, that he who mixed among a milling mob with a loaded pistol, stock with reserve ammunition and fires the pistol at least once is guilty of something more criminal than native had judgment. Roxboro may or may not be included, but most organized communities have ordinances prohibiting discharge of firearms within designated areas. And certainly there is law enough to exact some penalty of the fellow who shoots a gun in midst of mob demonstrations.

It is probably true, of course, that if local or State officers rounded up half-dozen or more members of the milling crowd and charged them with leading it, with supporting evidence, indictments may or may not be obtainable and conviction almost certainly would not result.

But it is important, we think, that an honest attempt be made to practice the evenness justice so religiously preached. The wholesome fruits of honest devotion to duty and principle are bountiful, even accompanied by failure. And we cannot find basis for the conclusion that discharge of 10 Negro CCC enrollees, who certainly didn't originate the disturbance, covers justice for all and writes honorable end to the case.

Winston Salem, N. C., Sentinel
September 10, 1941

Meeting the Challenge

October 30 should be a great day in the troubled history of North Carolina law enforcement and racial tolerance.

On that day the state S. B. I., according to Governor Broughton, will turn over to Solicitor William Murdock its report on the investigation the organization has made on the activity of a mob which unsuccessfully attempted to capture and lynch a Negro prisoner at the Roxboro jail August 15. The report, announces Governor Broughton, will be "definite and specific" and it will implicate a number of persons.

This is what the state wants. There has been some press murmurs regarding the "delay" of the state agency in giving the results of its investigation, but this delay may make for thoroughness. It were far better that an investigation extend through several weeks and result in the presentation of complete and convincing evidence for the use of the grand jury, than for it to be rushed through with only part of the facts ascertained and the evidence insufficient to bring to stage jail deliveries and necktie parties in the tall pines. It is earnestly to be hoped that when about conviction of the mob ringleaders. That is the whole objective—conviction over to the of the mob leaders. Once a North Caro- the S. B. I. turns its data lina court pins a few striped suits on solicitor it will contain sufficient evi- would-be lynchers we will find far less dence to elicit grand jury indictments. inclination among roadhouse hoodlums And we hope that Solicitor Murdock, armed with these indictments, will pros- ecute the defendants vigorously, throwing the book at them as it were, to the end that these inciters of racial hatred may develop a proper respect for the majesty and the dignity of North Carolina law.

Durham, N. C., Morning Herald
September 11, 1941

Murdock Confers With Agent On Roxboro Mob Investigation

Report To Be Kept Secret, However, Until Presented To Grand Jury Oct. 13

Solicitor William H. Murdock conferred here yesterday afternoon with Willard Gatling, of the State Bureau of Investigation, concerning the bureau's report of its investigation into the recent Roxboro mob disturbance, but the report is to be kept secret until presented to the Person County grand jury at its next session, Oct. 13.

Governor J. M. Broughton has stated that the report will be definite and specific and will implicate a number of persons.

Solicitor Murdock said he would not hesitate to prosecute any persons against whom there was evidence of law violation.

The SBI still is investigating the activities of the mob which surrounded the Person County jail at Roxboro during the night of Aug. 15 and early morning of Aug. 16 while Sheriff M. T. Clayton held a Negro accused of criminally assaulting a white girl.

Rocks and bottles were hurled at the court house, in which the jail is located, and a number of shots were fired at it, doing damage estimated at about $1,000, though there never was any concerted effort to rush the jail.

The Negro, Cy Winstead, 22, of near Roxboro, later was transferred to the State Prison at Raleigh, where he still is confined awaiting trial.

No Comment Made By Roxboro People

Roxboro, Sept. 10.—(Special)—City and county residents, including officials, this afternoon had no comment to make on the announcement yesterday by Governor J. Melville Broughton relative to the State Bureau of Investigation report on the Cy Winstead episode in this city which is to be reported by the bureau to District Solicitor William Murdock and in turn will be presented by him to the Person grand jury at Oct. 13 term of Superior Court.

It is known, however, that SBI men were here last week. The Governor himself was in the city a few hours last Friday, en route to South Boston, Va., for the festival. The SBI during the several weeks since Aug. 16 has interviewed a number of private citizens as well as officials. County Attorney R. P. Burns is now a patient in a Durham hospital and could not be reached for comment.

John Winstead, who is a brother of Cy Winstead, is improving at Duke Hospital, Durham, after a cutting scrape Saturday night.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

LYNCH ATTEMPT PROBE ORDERED

Carolina Grand Jury Is Told To Bring Mob Members To Trial

ROXBORO, N. C., Oct. 14—(AP)—In outspoken language, Superior Court Judge Henry A. Grady ordered the Person County Grand Jury Tuesday to bring to justice the "misguided hoodlums and inconsequential nobodies" who attempted unsuccessfully last August to lynch a Negro charged with criminally attacking a white girl.

"It is your duty to bring them all to justice," said the white-haired jurist, who added that Gov. J. M. Broughton was especially interested in seeing that they were punished.

"You and I are white men," said Judge Grady. "As white men we make the laws of this state. The Negro hasn't anything to do with making the laws.

"We as white men hold the Negro up to the same laws that white men observe. Yet, I blush to admit there are white people in North Carolina who think the Negro should not have as fair a trial as a white man.

"Gov. Broughton is horrified and outraged to have such a thing as this near lynching happen in the old state of North Carolina where we profess to be honest, Christian gentlemen."

Investigation Report At Hand

At the conclusion of the judge's charge, the Grand Jury filed out to begin its investigation. He had in its hand a confidential report of the State Bureau of Investigation.

Judge Grady said that he did not intend to make the report public, but it was learned that it named at least some of the alleged ring leaders.

Monday the same Grand Jury returned a bill of indictment charging with attack the Negro, Cy Winstead, whose trial was set for January. While he was confined in the Person County Jail, an armed mob stormed the building, breaking windows and firing pistols. Tear gas and a vigorous defense by law officers finally routed the crowd after several hours of disturbance in the early morning hours.

It was not learned immediately whether the Grand Jury would begin calling witnesses Tuesday.

As he opened his charge, Judge Grady told the grand jurors about the case of another Negro, Leroy Wagstaff. He said that Wagstaff was convicted in Alamance County two years ago on charges of criminally attacking a white woman, and that the woman and a white man who said he was her husband both testified against the Negro.

Negro To Be Pardoned

Wagstaff was sentenced to death, appealed, was granted a new trial and again was sentenced to death, Judge Grady said.

"The white woman and the white man both confessed they had lied," he continued. "They were both arrested and they are both now in the penitentiary, where they belong for perjury."

"Wagstaff's sentence has been commuted and he is going to be pardoned.

"I am telling you this so that you can see what a terrible thing it would have been if that Negro had been lynched," Judge Grady said.

"I am charging and directing you now to make a sweeping investigation of all phases of this near-lynching. It is your duty to bring every member of that mob to justice if you can."

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Indict 10 In Attack On Jail

Carolina Mobsters To Be Tried In November

ROXBORO, N. C.—Ten members of a mob who on August 15 last stormed the Person County jail in an unsuccessful attempt to lynch a 22-year-old youth held on a charge of raping a white woman, were indicted here last week on misdemeanor charges by a special Person County grand jury.

Judge Henry A. Grady of New Bern, who ordered the grand jury probe, immediately issued capiases for their arrest and set bond at $500 each. He said he would ask Governor Broughton to call a special term of court for November at which the accused men would be tried.

BROTHER OF COURT CLERK

One of the ten men named in the indictment is a brother of Miss Sue Bradsher, clerk of the Person County Superior Court. The indictment carries a maximum punishment of two years in jail.

Named in the indictment were:

Coy Harris, P. I. Holt, Willie Aiken, Johnny Holt, Leb Dixon, William Green, W. G. Bradsher, Thomas Slaughter, A. P. Spriggs, and Evon James, all of Roxboro, or near Roxboro.

The grand jury's action climaxed a two-and-a-half day investigation during which more than a score of witnesses were summoned. The grand jury was armed with a confidential report of the State Bureau of Investigation, and all ten of the defendants were named in the report.

The language of the indictment was that the grand jury found probable cause that the defendants did:

TEXT OF INDICTMENT

"Wilfully and unlawfully assemble near the Person County courthouse with the intent mutually to assist one another against all who should oppose them in their unlawful purpose, which was to take by force from the sheriff of Person County one Cy Winstead, a prisoner then in custody of the said sheriff and confined in the county jail located in said courthouse, and did in a violent manner break in the doors and windows of said courthouse with rocks, bottles, guns, pistols and other instruments."

Judge Grady, who had previously ordered the jurors to "bring the ringleaders to justice," praised the finding of the indictments as "heartening to the law-abiding people of the State." He had characterized the mob leaders as "misguided hoodlums and inconsequential nobodies," in his charge to the grand jury.

GOVERNOR BROUGHTON PRAISES ACTION

In Edenton, where he was visiting, Governor Broughton on Thursday night said he was "glad that the grand jury did its duty," and added that without any prejudice as to the guilt or innocence of the defendants, he believed the investigation was "wholesome."

The 17-man jury filed into the court room at 11:30 a. m. and returned the indictments, which were contained in one bill.

Only a half-a-dozen spectators were present when Judge Grady thanked the jurors for their work.

"I want to commend you for the course you have taken," he said.

"It will be heartening to the law-abiding people of the State to know that you have returned a bill against those you had evidence against.

"If there is anything in the world that shocks me it is mob violence, and it shocks everybody who has any respect for law and authority.

SMALL MATTER

"Whatever becomes of this bill that you gentlemen have returned, whether these men are convicted or not, is a small matter in comparison with the fact that you have returned a bill.

"It shows that the grand jury wants to do the right thing, and it will be a lesson to those who wish to violate the law in assembling in such a riotous manner.

"I am going to ask the Governor to call a special term of court here so that this matter may be tried as early as possible and these particular men brought to justice. If they are found guilty, of course, they will be properly punished.

"I thank you gentlemen very much."

Governor Broughton said he would grant the judge's request for a special court term to be held next month.

DETERMINED OFFICERS

The attempted lynching occurred on August 15 when a mob of 500 armed men, some wearing masks, according to the State Bureau of Investigation report, stormed the jail situated on the top story of the courthouse building here.

Winstead owed his life to a determined little band of officers who held the would-be lynchers at bay in a prolonged before-dawn siege in which several shots were fired. The mob members, armed with guns, stones, bottles, and sticks, pelted the county jail while officers, hemmed up in a back room, drove the mob back at intervals with tear gas.

Sheriff T. M. Cayton, who managed to whisk the suspect out of town to State's Prison in Raleigh after summoning help from the Durham police department and the State Highway Patrol, estimated damage to the jail at $1,000. "It was the worst night in Person County history," Sheriff Cayton said.

Governor Broughton, meanwhile, had ordered an "immediate investigation" into an alleged march of a group of CCC boys on the Person County courthouse during the disorder. It was said that there were between 30 and 35 boys in the group who were within 150 yards of the courthouse when shots from the mob dispersed them.

37k-1941

NORTH CAROLINA

6780

Shelby N. C. Star
February 7, 1941

NEGRO SPIRITED AWAY FROM MOB

WINDSOR, Feb. 7.— (AP)—George Peele, local negro hidden away from mob violence in the cell of some undisclosed jail, will face a charge of murder next week in superior court here, because Ed Gray, whom he allegedly brutally assaulted in a robbery attempt last Friday, died this morning at 2 o'clock.

Mr. Gray was 78 years old. He is survived by his wife. Funeral arrangements have not been completed.

Charlotte, N. C., News
February 7, 1941

Hide Negro To Prevent Mob Action

Faces Trial After Victim, 78, Dies

WINDSOR — (AP)—George Peele, local Negro hidden away from mob violence in the cell of some undisclosed jail, will face a charge of murder next week in Superior Court here, because the aged clerk of the Bascom Company, Ed Gray, whom he allegedly brutally assaulted in a robbery attempt last Friday, died this morning at 2 o'clock.

Mr. Gray was 78 years old. He is survived by his wife. Funeral arrangements have not been completed.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

OPINION

BULLETS FOR INDIVIDUALS, ONLY GAS FOR MOBS

A mob of a few hundred men attacked the Roxboro, N.C., jail to lynch a prisoner and destroyed several thousands dollars worth of property.

The sheriff defended the jail with tear gas bombs. Had he been a city policeman chasing a single suspect he would likely have drawn a revolver and shot the fugitive.

Dixie jails are not armed with machine guns and cannon to repel lynchers, but every policeman can and does shoot individual persons suspected of a crime merely because they run.

There seem to be two morals to this. One is not to run from cops.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Lynch-Mad Mob Repulsed By N. C. Officers

Jail Damaged To Extent Of $1,000

ROXBORO, N. C.—(ANP) Seeking to get their hands on Cy Winstead, 22, charged with attacking a young white girl, a mob of 500 men armed with guns, stones and sticks stormed the Pearson jail Saturday. Their repeated efforts to break in were repulsed by the officers in the jail who drove the mob back with tear [illegible]. Cases of empty bottles taken from a bottling factory across the street from the jail were hurled into the building by the crowd.

Sheriff M. T. Clayton, after summoning aid from the Durham police department and the state highway patrol, managed to remove Winstead to State prison at Raleigh while the mob was throwing stones, sticks and bottles and shooting into the jail. Sheriff Clayton said that no one has been injured seriously as far as he knew.

Aiding in the confusion were about 35 colored CCC boys who had come from their camp on the edge of town, presumably to help Winstead. Shots fired into their midst by the crowd dispersed them.

Six hours after the mob had formed in front of the courthouse, and the sheriff had put in a call for help, the men began dispersing. Damage to the jail was estimated at $1,000.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

50 Negro CCC Boys Save Youth From Lynch Mob in N. Carolina

(Special to the Daily Worker)

ROXBORO, N. C., Aug. 19.—Cy Winstead, 22-year-old Negro was saved from a lynch mob here last night by the courageous action of Negro CCC boys.

A mob, estimated by the police to number 500, that stormed the county jail was resisted by 50 Negro [illegible] who marched into town from a nearby CCC camp, to protect the life of young Winstead. The action of the CCC boys made it possible for the police to get the young Negro out of the jail and transfer him to the state prison at Raleigh.

Governor Broughton denounced, young Negro accused of the old prevented a brutal lynching of a the action of the CCC boys in saving the life of Winstead and has demanded that the CCC administration in Washington make an "immediate investigation." The Governor stated that "the action of the CCC boys in marching on the Court House was serious and with a whole lot of shooting it was a wonder no one was killed."

Bart Logan, State Secretary of the Communist Party issued the following statement:

"The people of North Carolina owe a deep debt of gratitude to the courageous CCC boys who frame-up charge of rape. It is an amazing and shameful thing that the Governor of our state, instead of denouncing the Roxboro lynch mob, demands that the CCC boys who upheld law and order and prevented a terrible outrage [illegible] investigated.' Apparently in the eyes of our corporation-lawyer Governor it is a crime for anyone to interfere when a drunken lynch mob attempts to murder a Negro. These CCC boys upheld the best democratic traditions of our country at the risk of their lives and deserve high honor. The Governor's statement smacks of Nazism."

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Rape Suspect Spirited To State Prison

Mob Held At Bay By Courageous Officers

ROXBORO, N. C.—A 22-year-old youth accused of criminal assault on a white girl, was lodged in Central State Prison in Raleigh early Saturday morning after being rushed from Person County jail here following attempts by a mob of 500 angry whites to lynch him.

The accused youth, Cy Winstead, owed his life to a determined little band of officers who held the would-be lynchers at bay in a prolonged before dawn siege in which several shots were fired.

Until about four a. m. Friday the mob members, armed with guns, stones, bottles and sticks, pelted the county jail while officers, hemmed up in a back room drove the mob back at intervals with tear gas. The tear gas however, apparently brothered the officers more than it did the mobsters for the wind carried it back in the courthouse where it lingered for hours.

WORST NIGHT IN COUNTY'S HISTORY

Sheriff M. T. Clayton, who managed to whisk the suspect out of town and to State's Prison, after summoning help from the Durham police department and the State Highway patrol, estimated damage to the jail at at least $1,000. "It was the worse

night in Person County history," he said in describing the night of terror.

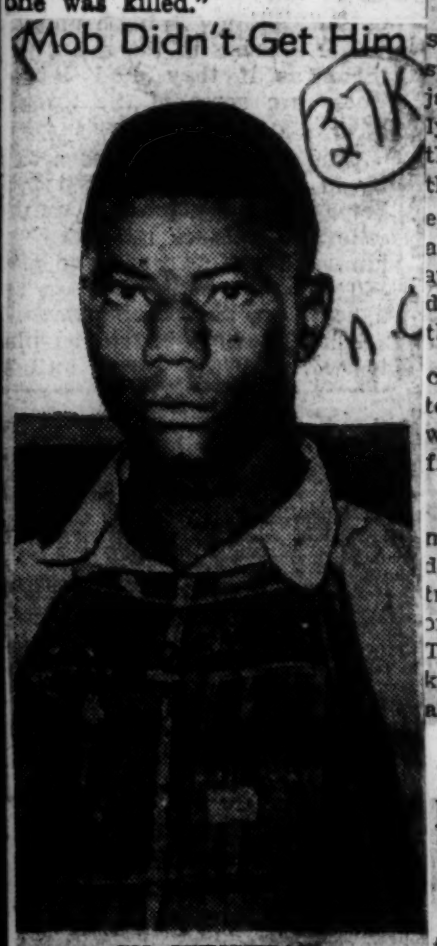
Quiet finally descended upon this little town of 4,600 inhabitants after a sufficient number of law enforcement officers had arrived and the crowd finally realized that they had been cheated of their victim.

Meanwhile in Raleigh, an "immediate investigation" into an alleged march of a group of CCC boys on the Person County courthouse during the disorder, has been asked by Governor J. M. Broughton of the head of the Civilian Conservation Corps. It was estimated that the CCC group numbered between 35 and 40 boys who are said to have advanced from their camp on the edge of town toward the courthouse, to aid Winstead.

DISORDERS CALLED "VERY SERIOUS"

They were within 150 yards of the courthouse when shots from the mob dispersed them, it was said. Governor Broughton described the disorders here as "very serious, with a whole lot of shooting, and it was a wonder no one was killed."

Mob Didn't Get Him



CY WINSTEAD, 22-year-old Negro CCC boy, who was [illegible] from a mob of 500.

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

500 Whites Storm Jail In N. C.

AUG 22 1941

ROXBORO, N. C. — A mob of white men estimated at 500 was frustrated here last week when a large number of Negro CCC boys appeared on the scene and prevented them from taking Cy Winstead, 22-year-old youth, charged with attacking a white girl. Governor J. M. Broughton stated that he had requested the head of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Washington to make an investigation of the demonstration on the part of the CCC boys, in spite of the fact that they had prevented a lynching.

The mob was armed with guns, stones, bottles, ropes and other instruments of warfare and stormed the jail being being held back temporarily by tear gas bombs thrown from the county jail by officers. It is said that not until the CCC boys appeared on the scene and indicated that a possible riot would take place if an attempt was made to lynch the youth did the mob disperse. One report is that the youths did not enter the city but were on the edge of the town approaching the court house when they were dispersed by shots fired from the crowd.

AUG 22 1941

Sheriff M. T. Clayton after summoning aid from the Durham police department and the state highway patrol, managed to take Winstead out of town to the state prison at Raleigh. The sheriff stated that as far as he knew no one had been injured in the affray.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Prisoner Saved From North Carolina Mob

AUG 17 1941

ROXBORO, N. C., Aug. 16.—(AP)—A determined little band of officers held a crowd of 500 angry men at bay today until a young negro accused of criminal attack was rushed unharmed to the state penitentiary at Raleigh, 50 miles away.

AUG 17 1941

The men, some of whom were armed with guns, stones, bottles and sticks stormed the Person County jail seeking Cy Winstead, 22-year-old negro.

Time and again they were driven back by tear gas.

Aid quickly came from the Durham Police Department and the State Highway Patrol. Sheriff M. T. Clayton then managed to get Winstead out of this town of 4,599 and carried him to Raleigh.

Mob Crumbles Under Tear Gas Bomb Barrage

AUG 21 1941

Sought To Lynch 22-Yr.-Old Youth Accused Of Attack

ROXBORO, [illegible] fired by state highway patrolmen succeeded in dispersing an angry mob of whites here early Saturday morning which had gathered for the purpose of getting their hands on Cy Winstead, a 22-year-old Negro accused of raping a white girl.

AUG 22

Winstead who was being held for questioning on the top floor of the courthouse here, was later whisked away to the State prison in Raleigh, with the aid of police officials from both Durham and Raleigh.

Before the mob was dispersed, however, they did over $1000 worth of damage to the jail by hurling bottles they had brought in and taken from a bottling works across the street.

A heroic gesture made by a group of 40 Negro CCC boys who marched towards the courthouse to aid Winstead, was thwarted when the crowd fired several shots directly at their massed ranks and dispersed them. It could not be learned whether any of them had been injured.

The fracas lasted from 10 o'clock Friday night until 4 o'clock Saturday morning.

—A Colored Judge.—

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
August 22, 1941

COMMENDATION.

To the Editor: North Carolinians and all other Southerners who are devoted to justice and democratic government owe an everlasting debt of gratitude to Sheriff M. T. Clayton and the courageous group of men who last Friday night helped him fight off a mob in Roxboro that tried to seize a Negro held in jail on a charge of rape. Sheriff Clayton and his associates deserve to be honored for their defense of American institutions against the spirit of lawlessness that the mob in Roxboro personified; and his determined action should be held up as an example to every law-enforcement officer in the South, or anywhere else in the country, whose duties may ever confront him with a similar problem.

The attempt of that Roxboro mob to seize the Negro and lynch him was an act of pure anarchy; for anarchy is nothing more nor less than lack of government, lack of respect for duly established law. Does the action of those 500 men in the mob at Roxboro mean that there are 500 anarchists in that neighborhood? I cannot believe so. Rather, I believe, it means that 500 men, understandably outraged by the crime of which the Negro was accused, were temporarily led by a spirit of mass hatred to the point of attempting a deed that most of the men, taken individually and in a saner moment, would themselves have condemned. Most of us ordinary mortals are subject to innumerable human weaknesses, and our actions are determined by many other influences besides our coolest and wisest intelligence. Submerged in crowds and swayed by emotion, we are capable of joining in actions that are utterly contradictory to our own individual principles.

I do not doubt that many of the very men who made up that mob in Roxboro will come to honor Sheriff Clayton for his courage in having prevented their worser selves from committing, in a moment of blind hatred, an act that their better selves would later have regretted and condemned.

WILLIAM EDGERTON.

Guilford College.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
August 22, 1941

Let's Get Results

Governor Broughton has announced that he has conferred with law enforcement officials and with Lieutenant Governor Harris, who was away from his home in Roxboro when the deplorable lynching attempt occurred there in the early morning of August 16 with a view toward appropriate action leading to the apprehension and conviction of members of the mob.

The Governor has taken the proper step and his action will be applauded by all law-abiding people in the State. It seems certain that the Governor will obtain results from his earlier action in requesting an investigation and disciplinary action against members of a Negro CCC camp who sought to inject themselves into an already tense situation by volunteering aid to law enforcement officials which was neither requested nor desired.

But the major infraction against law and order was that committed by the mob itself. The negative action of preventing a lynching was not sufficient to preserve the good name of the State and to guard against similar occurrences in the future. Positive action in the form of punishment of the guilty—such action is not only desirable, it is imperative if the law is to be vindicated.

The Governor has now set the machinery of the law in motion. That machinery should remain in motion until results are obtained.

Norfolk, Va., Pilot
August 18, 1941

What a Sheriff Can Do

The mob story from Roxboro, North Carolina, contains a solemn warning of how closely the mob spirit is below the surface and of how carefully it must be watched if it is not to flare up. Here is a State that takes a special pride in its handling of cases which sometimes have led to lynchings. A storm of protests followed the announcement a few weeks ago that Tuskegee Institute classified a North Carolina homicide last April as a lynching. A score of North Carolina newspapers protested against what they called a slur on the State's name. Yet in Roxboro it was a touch-and-go matter whether a real mob, bent on murder in one of its worst forms, would succeed in its purposes.

The other side of this story is more cheering. It shows how officers of the law can meet this threat. There was no lynching in Roxboro because a determined sheriff, whose name, M. T. Clayton, deserves to be remembered, and his determined deputies withstood a siege in a jail, refused to give up against threatening assaults, succeeded in summoning aid, and eventually got away to Raleigh with their prisoner untouched.

Weak officers, cowardly officers, purely political officers or merely indifferent officers would have surrendered. These officers were of finer quality. They have performed an act of exceptional courage—one that calls for high commendation.

37k-1941

PENNSLYVANIA

6781

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Mob Of 500 Menaces Driver Of Death Car Which Killed Barber

A 24-year-old steel worker escaped serious injury on Sunday from an angry mob of 500 persons, who attempted to mauls him after he had struck and killed a Germantown barber, who stepped into the path of his speeding automobile.

The victim of the accident was Robert Brooks, 65, of Church lane and Germantown avenue, who was struck by the car and dragged 72 feet. According to witnesses he was killed almost instantly. Physicians at the Germantown Hospital pronounced him dead on arrival.

Drive Car In Crowd

Police appeared just in time at Chelten avenue and Boyer street, where the throng was pummeling the driver. Patrolman William R. Stotesbury and Albert Shoppy had to nose their red car into the crowd to reach the accused motorist, Frank Walker, 24, who was on his way home from work at the Midvale Steel Company.

Walker told police of the accident investigation squad that he was driving about 45 miles an hour on Boyer street and according to Walker's story he saw Brooks run out [illegible] store and start across the street.

Ignores Horn

He blew his horn, he said, but the man did not stop. The impact broke almost every bone in Brooks' body, the police say.

The patrolmen took the man to the German[illegible] Station House on charges of manslaughter and reckless driving, while a patrol wagon took Brooks to the hospital.

——A Colored Judge——

37k-1941

SOUTH CAROLINA

6782

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
January 28, 1941

35 Patrolmen Guard 2 Negroes

GEORGETOWN, S. C., Jan. 27. (AP)—A detail of 35 state highway patrolmen was on duty here tonight as general sessions court officials made ready to call the cases of George Thomas and Isaac Gibson, Negroes, charged with criminal assault upon white women.

Battery D, 178th Field Artillery, South Carolina National Guard, took its station at the Georgetown armory in compliance with an order placing it under federal service effective today. The battery will remain here for several days, but will not be called upon to maintain order here unless the situation warrants it, it was said.

The old seaport was quiet tonight in marked contrast to the days last month when streets were cleared of Negroes here as a precautionary measure. The trouble had started when a young married woman reported she was attacked.

Madison, Ga., Madisonian
January 8, 1941

HOW TO PREVENT LYNCHING

Score one for the South. Quick mobilization of thirty militiamen and five officers in a South Carolina town a few days ago resulted in the dispersal of a mob of 300 armed men, bent on lynching a Negro.

There was a time when little or no effort would have been made to prevent the brutal mob execution of a black man in some parts of the former Confederacy. Indeed, lynchings have not always been stoutly opposed when they occurred in the North. The point is that apparently there is a growing understanding on the part of the South's citizens that they must stiffen the resistance of their sheriffs and jailers, and back them up with the force of authority.

Some may ungraciously infer that the threat of the anti-lynching bill, still pending in Congress, is having its effect. We prefer to believe that the South, like many of us, is learning a little more about itself, and in this the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of lynchings is doubtless playing an important part. The falling off of lynchings in recent years seems to prove this.

Few have any quarrel with the aims of the anti-lynching bill, but Federal Government penalizing of counties in which lynchings occur is not a way to heal the trouble. The cure must be basic, and education is clearly a remedy.—Ex.

Columbia, S. C. State
January 16, 1941

State Police

The first step to assure the observance of law in South Carolina should be the establishment of a state police system on a merit basis independent of politics.

With our law enforcement agencies co-ordinated under a state police system we will then be equipped to meet the increasing problem of crime. A state police system today is more needed than it was two years ago because of the part South Carolina is playing in the national defense program. The military authorities, of course, will police the camps and be responsible for order among those in military service. However, it is desirable and essential that there be in South Carolina state police system to dovetail in with the work of the federal authorities and unanimously maintain law and order.

While on the subject of law and order, I again wish to commend the people of South Carolina, for the splendid record we are maintaining in preventing lynchings in our state. I am happy to remind you that during my first two years as governor of South Carolina I called out the militia only twice—once to prevent a lynching and the other time to aid hurricane sufferers.

With the limited constabulary or Governor's Guards, we have done the best we could with law enforcement. However, everyone realizes that with 24 constables in 46 counties—working eight hours a day—it is impossible to carry out the wishes of the people. It is my opinion that a state police system, properly set up by the legislature would be a great solution to the law and order problem of South Carolina.

I earnestly urge the adoption of a law which will forever ban slot machines from South Carolina.

It is my belief further that it is the wishes of the farmers, workers and the people of South Carolina that a civil service law with a merit system for all employes for the state of South Carolina should be enacted and it is my opinion that this would mean more efficient government, more satisfied employes and would create conditions that would benefit all of our people.

6783

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Negro Captain Uses Ruse To Save Them From Whites

OCT 18 1941

SPARTA, Wis. (ANP)—After hearing charges of rape and assault filed May 12 against three soldiers of the 184th field artillery, now stationed at Fort Custer, an all-white jury in Monroe county circuit court of Judge Charles Beckman here returned a verdict of not guilty last Saturday. The verdict, returned after Capt. Louis Euclid Taylor and Gen. William J. Warfield had presented unshakable defense in setting forth circumstances upon which charges were based, came as a shock to Judge Beckman. The judge personally polled the entire jury at the close of the trial to ascertain the veracity of the decision.

John Orgain, James Hilliard, Royal T. Hudgle and Clarence Frazier, the defendants, all of Chicago, were accused of criminally attacking Miss Violet Van Kirk, white, of Sparta and beating her escort, Pvt. Forest Stagg, white, attached to the 21st field artillery regiment, after encountering the couple in a lonely field at Sparta on the night of May 10.

Denying the charges, the defendants cited that they, along with other white and colored soldiers, had accidentally come across the couple lying in a field a short distance from a skating rink in which the soldiers had attended a dance. They testified that instead of joining the rest of the soldiers in kidding the couple about their embarrassing situation, they had nothing more to do with the affair.

OCT 18 1941

Testimony Refuted

False testimony made to military authorities at Fort Custer by Vereck Edwards, alias "Burt Dickson", a Negro M. P., that he had witnessed the attack on the girl by the soldiers caused their subsequent arrest. However, at Saturday's trial in Capt. Taylor's cross-examination, Edwards' testimony was proven false, and evidence that Edwards' mental status bordered close upon a state of delinquency nullified his previous testimony.

The failure of Miss Van Kirk and Pvt. Stagg to identify any of the accused as their assailants also aided the jury in reaching the "not guilty" verdict.

Another development took place that afternoon after the boys had been released from jail into the custody of Capt. Taylor. An official of Camp McCoy military police, Capt. Arthur Davidson, white, notified Capt. Taylor that he intended taking the defendants to his headquarters at Camp McCoy to await arrangements for transporting them back to their regiment. He was accompanied by several aides. Sensing the hostile attitudes of the white soldiers, Capt. Taylor refused to relinquish custody of his clients.

Resorts to Ruse

In order to avert a clash, Capt. Taylor resorted to a ruse by going to the local station and purchasing one railroad ticket, conveying the impression that he was leaving Sparta that night alone, and that the four released soldiers would spend the night in town. However, the four youths were hidden in an automobile parked some distance from the station and on the opposite side of the tracks so that when the train pulled into the depot, no one would observe them boarding the flyer from the blind side. The fares were later paid aboard the train.

The revelation that the youths were tricked into signing their names to a blank sheet of paper, to which later a typewritten confession to the alleged assault and rape were added, brought to light another of the numerous devices resorted to by Sparta authorities to gain conviction of the defendants.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Verdict Shocks Judge; Demands Poll Of Jurors

OCT 1 3 1941

Resort To Ruse To Avert Clash

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OCT 13 1941

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NOT GUILTY

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OCT 18 1941

REPORT ON INSTANCES IN WHICH
MOB VIOLENCE OR LYNCHINGS
WERE PREVENTED, 1941
(January through November)

Date	State	Place	Charge	Number of Persons		Method Employed to Save Prisoner		
				White	Negro	Persons Removed	Guards Augmented	Force Used
2-24	Ala.	Talladega Talladega County	Highway Robbery and Criminal Assault		1		X	
2-25		Tuscumbia Colbert County	Attacked white girl		1	X		
8-19		Lunett Chambers County	Criminal Assault		1	X		
8-22		Alabama City Etowah County	Criminal Assault		1	X		
10-4		Andalusia Covington County	Manslaughter		1	X	X	
10-15		Ashland Clay County	Murder and Criminal Assault		1	X		
5-14	Ark.	McGhee Desha County	Criminal Assault		1	X	X	
6-9	Del.	Seaford Sussex County	Accused of entering bedroom of white girl		1	X		
7-29		Bridgeville Sussex County	Stabbed white man to death.		1	X		

Date	State	Place	Charge	Number of Persons		Method Employed to Save Prisoner		
				White	Negro	Persons Removed	Guards Augmented	Force Used
7-22	GA.	Thomson McDuffie County	Murder		1	X		
9-16		Smyrna Cobb County	Alleged criminal attack.		1	X		
9-28		Mathews Jefferson County	Murder		1	X		
2-10	MISS.	West Point Clay County	Alleged criminal assault.		1	X		
7-29		Greenville Washington County	Murder	1		X		
10-11		Gulfport Harrison County	Stabbed white man to death.		1	X		
10-15		Tupelo Lee County	Assault and battery with intent to kill and murder.		1	X		
1-31	N. C.	Windsor Bertie County	Murder		1	X		
8-15		Roxboro Person County	Criminal Assault		1	X	X	X
10-11	WIS.	Sparta Monroe County	Rape and Assault		3	X		

37K

1941

NUMBER PERSONS PREVENTED BEING LYNCHED

Year	Number of Individuals						Total
	White		Negro		Total		
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	
1930	6	1	52	2	58	2	60
1931	18	1	72		90	1	91
1932	7		34	2	41	2	43
1933	11		37		48		48
1934	14		57	3	71	3	74
1935	17		67		84		84
1936	7		72		79		79
1937	3		70	2	73	2	77
1938	3		49	1	52	1	53
1939	5		20		25		25
1940	4		22	2	26	2	28
Total	97	1	552	12			662



Acme

LILLY STEIN, THE LITTLE CASINO, FREDERICK DUQUESNE
Some customers came for something besides Wiener Schnitzel.

power." Short-wave radio messages, courier service via Clipper planes, code messages in secret ink, intricate financing of conspiracies—they used them all. Their clearing house: the Little Casino Bar.

Proudly announcing the arrests, Mr. Hoover said his sleuths had been on the trail for two years, called it the greatest spy roundup since World War I.

RADICALS

The New Party Line

Oh, Franklin Roosevelt told the people how he felt,
We almost believed him when he said:
"Oh, I hate war,
And so does Eleanor,
But we won't be safe till everybody's dead."

That was a popular Communist song, until last week. Then, at a secret meeting in Manhattan, the national committee of the party announced the new party line: dropping the anti-war campaign, favoring aid to Britain, lend-lease help to Russia, higher wages, the right to strike, organization of the unorganized—in short, a return to the Popular Front that the Communists junked when the Hitler-Stalin non-aggression pact was signed. Said Comrade William Z. (for nothing) Foster: "A victory for Russia will enormously strengthen democracy throughout the world."

A Russian victory would strengthen U.S. Communists. But a Soviet defeat, which was far more probable, might leave U.S. Communists not only men without a country but men without a creed—because all their ideas have come from Russia. The comrades were pretty sick, for Communist propagandists know how weak Russia is.

When Germany invaded Poland and World War II began, Comrade Mike Gold, foremost Communist pundit in the U.S., exulted: "I feel like a boy again!" Last week Comrade Gold confided how he felt when he heard of the invasion of Russia: "The first hour was awful—I shall never forget it. Now it had come—the thing we so feared for five, ten, 20 years."

Meanwhile the U.S. showed no disposition to give up the job of rooting out domestic Reds because Stalin was fighting Hitler (although anti-Communists were alarmed at Washington reports that prosecutions were to be dropped):

▶ In Manhattan, Morris U. Schappes, City College tutor, ex-Communist and a leader of the College Teachers' Union, Local 537, was convicted of perjury.

▶ In Oklahoma City, Mrs. Ina Woods, wife of the Oklahoma secretary of the Communist Party, was sentenced to ten years in prison for criminal syndicalism.

▶ In Washington, New York's Congressman John Taber, charging fellow-traveling in Henderson's OPACS, named Robert Brady ("He is one of those birds in the price-fixing outfit under Henderson.") and Brady's wife ("She was the business manager of a magazine known as *Friday* which ties right into the Communist front."). Also under fire was the U.S. Housing Authority, whose Bernard Ades was once Communist candidate for Governor of Maryland.

Nobody expected the Communist Party to fold up at once. There were some arguments that if Russia fell quickly, and Stalin was succeeded by a Muscovite Darlan, Hitler could take over the Communist International, make even more effective use of U.S. Communists than Stalin had been able to. But the general belief was that the mainspring of U.S. Communism would be broken.

RACES

Judge Lynch Overruled

Over the little town of Eastman, Ga. lay the dead pall of fear and hatred that comes over Southern towns when everybody knows what is going to happen. In the town square, hard-eyed, determined men came together, waiting for darkness. There was going to be a lynching.

The heat lay heavily on the paved sidewalks, the trim houses beside the highway. In a cell in the county jail a young Negro waited too. Eddie Lee Spivey, 28, a sharecropper with a good reputation, married, with two children, had been arrested for rape the night before. Up in his farming community of Mt. Airy, a 65-year-old white woman had been attacked as she crossed a field to her son's house. Bloodhounds had followed tracks from the scene of the crime to a spot near Spivey's house.

The Negro prayed. The other prisoners looked through the barred window at the growing mob, and told him to come look. Spivey talked with his Lord and asked Him to save him. He told the Lord that he was going to tell the truth; suddenly he was no longer scared or worried, and lay back on his bunk and slept. About dark the boys woke him. He looked through the bars at the scene swimming in the hot Southern twilight, a string of 100 cars drawn up before the jail, 700 white men circulating under the trees. Strong in his faith, he lay down again and slept. It was 10:15 when the mob's leaders, with keys taken from the sheriff, unlocked the cell door. Spivey knew they had come to kill him. He held up his hands and waited.

Half a dozen men held him by the arms and legs and dragged him out to their car. It streaked over the eight miles of road to the scene of the crime, other cars following. Out in the woods beside the field, somebody built a bonfire. Somebody asked Spivey if he had raped Mrs. Peacock. He said he had not seen her in five years. Somebody asked Spivey if he knew where his potato patch was, near there. When Spivey said he did not, the man said, "You're a God-damned liar" and hit him on the head with the butt of his pistol. The man swung again, missed, hit a white man beside him.

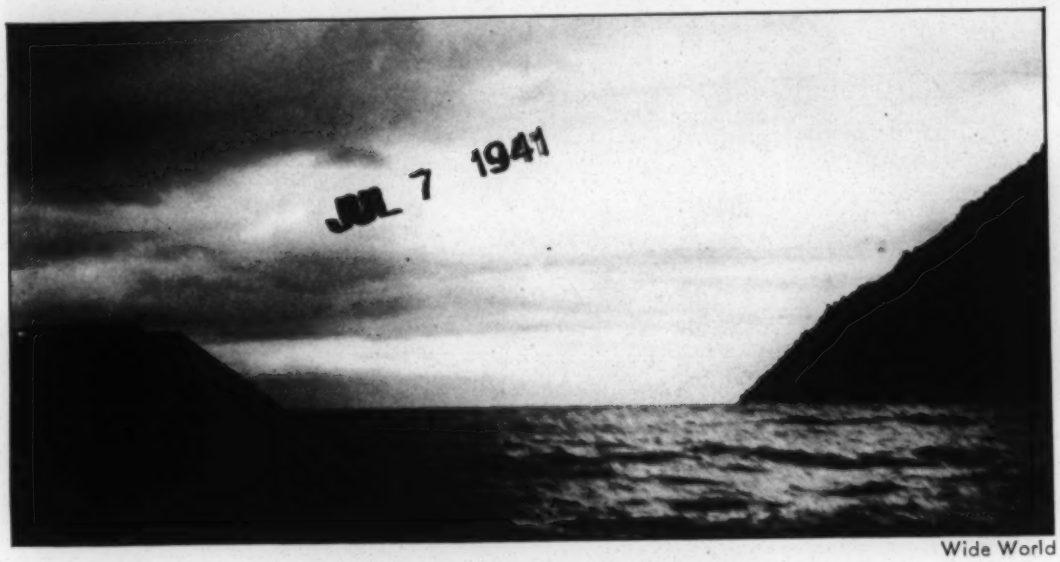
Spivey sat on the ground. A double plowline was fastened around his neck. The blow had deafened him; he could not hear the questions. Somebody kicked

him in the back and on the head. He was rolled over on his face, and his legs twisted. Blood was running into his nose and mouth from the cut on his head. He heard something about gasoline and knew they were going to burn him. He said he did not do it. He said it again. Somebody yelled: how many want to kill him? How many want to take him back to jail? He heard the roar for his death. He said, "Go ahead and kill me but then keep looking for the man who done it."

The mob hesitated. The men who were likkered up wanted to get it over with. An hour passed while the fire burned down. Some piney-woods law-giver thought of an answer. Two of the raped woman's sons were there, Elzie and Early. So the crowd said for Elzie and Early to decide.

This focusing of responsibility troubled Elzie and Early. They crossed the fields to ask their mother what to do. She told them to take the Negro back to jail and let the law take its course. At midnight, bruised but still unafraid, Spivey was back in his cell. The boys in his cell said they had figured there was a better chance of seeing their mothers come back from the grave than of ever seeing him alive again.

For the first time, as far as anybody could recollect, Judge Lynch had been overruled.



Wide World

BIG DIOMEDE (*left*), LITTLE DIOMEDE
Narrow water was an argument for a long road.

TERRITORIES

Another Norway

As Adolf Hitler's Armies slogged toward Moscow last week (*see p. 17*), Representative Warren Magnuson of Seattle, Wash. was thinking about Alaska. Mr. Magnuson's thoughts were not as far-fetched as they may have seemed. They were based on the following strategic and geographic facts: 1) if Hitler beats Russia, he gets the Trans-Siberian Railway; 2) whoever has the Trans-Siberian Railway controls Siberia; 3) Siberia is little more than a Cyclopean stone's throw from Alaska.

From Big Diomede Island, where Russia has a new air base, to rocky Little Diomede, which belongs to the U.S., is less than five miles. With Russia's Siberian bases in German hands, Alaska could become another Norway. Congress has authorized $90,000,000 for Alaskan defense, expects to appropriate from $10,000,000 to $15,000,000 more in the next few months. The Army is hard at work building new airfields; Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox said the Navy's new base at Dutch Harbor, in the Aleutian Islands, will be ready Sept. 1.* But air and naval bases alone cannot transport or supply the kind of army that would be needed to protect Alaska from invasion.

Ever since his election in 1936, Warren Magnuson has been trying to get Congressional funds for a highway from Seattle to Alaska. He is chairman of the Alaskan International Highway Commission, has helped survey the wild terrain through which the road would pass, has flown over every mile of the proposed route.

Cost of a gravel-top road, under a bill introduced in the House by Delegate Anthony Joseph Dimond of Alaska, would be about $25,000,000—roughly the price of a new 10,000-ton cruiser. Until last week the whole plan sounded pretty far-fetched to the House. But with Hitler's shadow coming east against the sun, it began to look as if others besides Warren Magnuson might begin to think about Alaska.

TEXAS

Close Thing

Two days after election day last week, after one of the hottest political campaigns in the history of Texas, nobody knew who had won the late Morris Sheppard's seat in the U.S. Senate. Lanky, 32-year-old Representative Lyndon Johnson, endorsed by President Roosevelt, started out with a seemingly secure 13,500-vote lead in a field of 25 candidates. But as the count piled up, folksy Governor Wilbert Lee ("Please Pass the Biscuits, Pappy") O'Daniel slowly ate into Lyndon Johnson's vanishing plurality.

As the last returns trickled in this week, from backwoods counties where Lee O'Daniel is strongest, Roosevelt's Johnson was still leading. But his margin was so fabulously small—77 out of a total of 500,000 votes counted—that it could be considered virtually a dead heat. Although Texas law considers a plurality of one vote sufficient in a special election, the Election Bureau took it for granted that a recount would be demanded, that it might be weeks before Texas knew the winner.

Win or lose, Lyndon Johnson, like his competitors, had given Texas quite a show. His great contribution to campaign entertainment was a political version of cinema's Bank Night. At a Johnson rally, listeners sat with lottery tickets clutched in their moist palms. The lucky numbers won defense bonds.

For the first time since the disastrous Roosevelt "purge" of 1938, the President had taken a bold and active hand in a State election. Lyndon Johnson, who first announced his candidacy from the steps of the White House, was backed three times during the campaign by letters and telegrams from Franklin Roosevelt, his "very old and close friend."

On election eve Governor O'Daniel tried to include himself in the President's blessing, suggested to Franklin Roosevelt that Texas should have its own Army and Navy. It was a "breath-taking" idea, the President told Pappy. Then he wired Lyndon Johnson, said the idea was "preposterous."

Meanwhile, the one forgotten man of Texas' election was the man who held the seat for which Johnson and O'Daniel were fighting. In Baltimore, two days before his successor was to be chosen, death came to 87-year-old interim Senator Andrew Jackson Houston, son of Texas' Liberator Sam Houston (*see p. 40*).

TAXATION

Pay As You Go

The U.S. Treasury this week was working on a plan to collect income taxes in advance. Some time after July 4, tax-anticipation certificates will go on sale, permitting taxpayers to invest their money in taxes the same year they earn it.

Blond, dapper John L. Sullivan, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, told newsmen that these tax certificates will probably come in denominations starting at $1 or $5, will bear interest (probably 2%) in the form of a discount, like defense bonds. Treasury officials said the certificates will not be transferable or subject to use as collateral for bank loans. Thus banks and private investors will not be

* State Department officials this week emphatically denied a story that the U. S. is working on a deal with Russia to acquire the use of Siberia's air bases.

37L-1941

6738

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Woman Criminally Attacked By Negro

FEB 7 1941

Victim of a criminal assault by an unidentified Negro, a woman employe of a Woodlawn department store was under a physician's care Friday while police sought her assailant.

City Detectives Norrell and McGuire, who with Detectives Giles and Alexander, investigated, said they were told the woman had started to walk home from work.

When she reached Fifth Avenue, South, between Fifty-Fifth and Fifty-Sixth Streets, according to the detectives, the woman stopped as a freight train crossed.

While she was waiting, the detectives said they were told, the Negro approached from the rear and seized her. The woman screamed and broke away, but the Negro seized her again, the detectives said.

While screaming and fighting, the woman was pulled by the Negro to a nearby embankment at the crossing where she was criminally attacked, according to the investigating detectives.

A search was made of the Woodlawn neighborhood by police a short time after the attack, but without success.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

WOMAN IDENTIFIES NEGRO IN ASSAULT

FEB 25 1941

TALLADEGA, Ala., Feb. 24—(AP)—Mrs. Vera Edwards testified Monday in the trial of Julius Jackson, Sylacauga Negro, that she was with Leaman Shields the December night he was killed by a shotgun blast as they sat in a parked automobile.

Jackson is accused of slaying Shields and of criminally assaulting his white woman companion.

Mrs. Edwards identified Jackson in the Talladega circuit courtroom as the assailant.

Ten Alabama highway patrolmen augmented a force of local and county officers on duty during the trial.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

GIRLS IDENTIFY NEGRO IN TUSCUMBIA ASSAULT

Prisoner Taken To Unannounced Jail After Arrest

MAR 1 2 1941

Special to The Commercial Appeal

TUSCUMBIA, Ala., March 11.—James Pruitt, [illegible]-year-old Negro, was whisked away from the Colbert County Jail here and taken to an unannounced jail after he had been identified as the man who attacked a white girl in the outskirts of the city about 10 o'clock Tuesday morning.

A large posse of officers, county and city, along with volunteers, was formed after the 18-year-old girl reported the attack to city police, and bloodhounds from the office of Sheriff O. H. McRight were taken to the scene in a field off Decatur Street.

MAR 1 2 1941

Pruitt was arrested by city officers in Leighton, and Chief Deputy Sheriff R. L. McCorckle and Porter Henson went to Leighton after the prisoner.

Both the girl attacked and her sister, who was with her at the time, were taken to the county jail and each identified the negro, it was reported.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Negro Held Guilty In Criminal Assault Of Green Springs Girl

APR 9 - 1941

Jury Fixes Punishment At Death In 1939 Attack; Other Cases Are Pending

Punishment was fixed at death Wednesday morning when a jury in Circuit Judge John C. Morrow's Court convicted Willie Nelms Snead, 33-year-old Negro, on a charge of criminally attacking a young Green Springs housewife in June, 1939.

The jury received the case late Tuesday afternoon and could not reach a verdict before retiring for the night.

Judge Morrow said he would formally pass sentence Saturday.

The case against Snead was the second on which he has been tried in a week. Last week a jury in Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler's court convicted the Negro on a charge of nighttime burglary of an inhabited dwelling and fixed his punishment at 99 years in prison. There are three more cases pending against Snead, two charging nighttime burglary and the other charging criminal assault of a white woman.

Assistant Solicitor Burgin Hawkins, who demanded the death penalty for the Negro, introduced into evidence a statement in which Snead reportedly admitted the attack in the presence of the victim and City Detectives R. G. Shirley and McCoy Helton.

The reported confession, however, was repudiated by the Negro when he took the witness stand and defense counsel argued that the young victim was mistaken in her identification of Snead as the Negro who attacked her after getting into bed with her and her 13-month-old child. The prosecuting witness testified she picked Snead out of a police lineup after his arrest last January. The girl, who was only 16 at the time she said she was attacked, testified Snead threatened to kill both her and the infant if she made an outcry.

The witness said she got a good look at her assailant when she turned on her bed lamp momentarily.

APR 9 - 1941

Snead maintained that he was physically incapable of performing the attack, having been injured some time before while tearing down a building for his family.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Spectators Barred As Negro Faces Court In Attack On Girl

APR 8 1941

Charged with a criminal attack against a young Green Springs housewife, Willie Nelms Snead, 33-year-old Negro, was on trial Tuesday before a jury in Circuit Court in a case in which Judge John C. Morrow barred spectators from his courtroom.

Only attorneys, reporters and relatives of the young prosecuting witness were admitted to the proceedings.

APR 8 1941

Snead was "positively" identified by the young woman as the Negro who attacked her early one morning in June, 1939, while she and her 13-months-old child were asleep in bed at their home. The victim, who was only 16 at the time, testified she got a good look at the defendant when she turned on a bed lamp.

APR 8 1941

Snead was said by the young woman to have threatened to kill both she and her baby if she screamed. According to state testimony, the young woman picked Snead out of a police lineup of five Negroes at the Southside Jail after his arrest in January, this year.

ALABAMA

A jury in Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler's court last week convicted Snead on a charge of nighttime burglary of an inhabited dwelling and fixed his punishment at 99 years in prison. Snead still faces three other capital cases, two charging him with nighttime burglary and one charging criminal attack of another white woman.

Assistant Solicitor Burgin Hawkins was permitted by Judge Morrow at Monday's trial to introduce testimony regarding the other case after defense counsel had made an effort to show that Snead was physically incapable, because of a back injury, of making the attack with which he is charged. Hawkins said he would demand the death penalty for the Negro.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
August 22, 1941

Woman Reports Attack By Negro

Deputy Harvey Elliott Reports Confession Is Made In Alleged Rape

Julius R. Kelly, 17-year-old Negro, was rushed to Birmingham for safekeeping by Sheriff Henry W. Smith this morning, shortly after the Negro had been positively identified as the youth who allegedly criminally assaulted a married white woman in Attalla last night.

A court order issued by Circuit Judge J. Disque, of Gadsden, said the transfer of the prisoner to Birmingham was necessary because there was reason to believe feeling was high against him in Attalla.

Chief Deputy Harvey K. Elliott, in Birmingham with the Negro, notified Sheriff Smith during the afternoon that Kelly had made a full confession of the alleged rape in his presence as well as in the presence of a Jefferson county solicitor.

Kelly was arrested by Deputy Sheriff O. P. Reagan, Patrolmen Arthur Fowler and T. T. Melton of the Attalla police department at the home of his father on Second street in Attalla. He was found asleep in bed and Deputy Reagan said he had apparently been drinking some kind of intoxicant that smelled like bay rum.

The victim of the alleged attack positively identified Kelly as the man who attacked her several times and held her captive at the point of a gun for about five hours in a vacant lot between the cotton warehouse near the union depot, and a Negro settlement, according to Sheriff Smith.

Five other persons identified him as the Negro they saw in the vicinity before and after the alleged attack, the sheriff said.

Woman Enroute Home

The young woman told officers she was on the way home from work at about 8 o'clock when she suddenly felt somebody tugging at her arm. When she turned, she said, she saw a tall, slim, black Negro holding a gun close to her head. She said he told her he did not want her purse, which she offered nimbly, but he wanted her to go with him. Under threat of death, Sheriff Smith said, she allowed the Negro to drag her into the secluded place behind the warehouse. After five hours of torture, she told the officers, the Negro let her go under promise that she do something for him. Unexpectedly, the Negro was said to have followed her to a cafe where he stood in the door with a gun in his hand as she talked to a girl who worked in the place.

According to the sheriff's story, a white man then walked up and began talking to the victim, but she was afraid to mention the incident for fear of the Negro, who she said had a gun pointed at the back of the man.

Finally, it was reported, she and the white man walked into the cafe, but she ran out the back door. The white man, sensing trouble, ran after her and she told him what had happen. The Negro was reported to have fled the scene about this time. Sheriff Smith said the white man did not know the Negro by name, but knew that he worked at the coal shute nearby.

Others saw him in the vicinity before officers rounded him up, according to the sheriff.

The Negro had the gun that his victim and two others described in his possession, loaded with five cartridges, the officers said.

All of the cartridges had been snapped but none had been ignited, it was said.

Sheriff Smith said the Negro was not questioned here as officers were anxious to get him out of the county.

37 1 -1941

ALABAMA

6739

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Negro Held For Attempted Assault

JAN 23 1941

ANDALUSIA, ALA., Jan. 22.—Booker T. Jordan, 36, negro farm hand, was being held by local authorities here today for the attempted assault of a prominent matron of the Loango community.

A warrant was sworn out for the negro's arrest by the matron and a member of her family. According to the story told by the matron, the negro attempted the assault while she was in her back yard washing. She managed to pull away and ran into the house. Returning a few minutes later with a gun, she found the negro had vanished.

Sheriff Tom Read and Deputies Breck Gantt and R. J. Langford made the arrest a short time later. The negro was found working on a farm. He was immediately taken to the county jail.

According to statements issued by the sheriff's office, the negro has denied the charge.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Young Man Is Charged With Attempted Attack

JAN 6 - 1941

Charged with attempting to attack a 49-year-old woman, 25-year-old George Roberts, construction company employe, Monday was in the City Jail.

Roberts, who lives at 717 South Twenty-First Street, was arrested Saturday night by Motorscouts Dewey Copeland and W. S. Hammett and Detectives Henry Darnell and "Pistol" Propst, who charge he attempted to attack the woman in an alley between South Twenty-First and Twenty-Second Streets and Eighth Avenue South and Eighth Court.

Several persons were attracted to the scene by the woman's screams, the officers said. She was slightly injured.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

TEN JURORS CHOSEN IN STRUBING CASE

JAN 22 1941

Negro Butler Pleads Innocent as Bridgeport Trial Starts

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Jan. 21 (AP)—Questioning winnowed ten acceptable jurors, five women and five men, from twenty-four talesmen today for the trial of Joseph Spell, 31-year-old Negro butler accused of attacking Mrs. Eleanor Strubing of Greenwich.

Carl Foster, Superior Judge, ordered fifteen more talesmen to report for questioning when court reconvenes at 10 A. M. tomorrow.

Spell, who was arrested on Dec. 11 after Greenwich police reported that Mrs. Strubing had accused her butler of the attacks and then hurling her into a reservoir, sat impassively as the talesmen were questioned in a court room barred to the public. He was formally arraigned when court opened this morning. He pleaded innocent and elected trial by jury.

An indication of the defense's strategy was given in questioning of prospective jurors by Samuel E. Friedman of Brideport, attorney retained for Spell by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Mr. Friedman asked questions as to the views of most of those examined regarding relations between Negroes and whites and whether the social standing of plaintiff and defendant made any difference.

In his questions, Lorin W. Willis State's attorney, stressed the State's contention that spell "with force and violence" attacked Mrs. Strubing while her husband, John K. Strubing Jr., a New York advertising man was absent from their home in the Round Hill section of Greenwich.

Strubing was in the courtroom for the start of the trial, but his wife, the former Eleanor Paul of Philadelphia, was in seclusion.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Doris Dudley Withdraws As Opening Nears

Strubling-Spell Episode Given As Real Cause

MAR 8 1941

NEW YORK—Repercussions of Connecticut's famous rape trial, in which a colored houseman, Joseph Spell, was accused of raping his white employer, Mrs. Eleanor Strubing, were heard on Broadway last week when in connection with the stage production of "Native Son." Doris Dudley, who originally agreed to play the role of Mary Dalton, withdrew from the cast because "my friends are ribbing me too much."

In the famous novel by Richard Wright, from which the play was adapted, Mary Dalton was strangled in bed by a colored houseman, Bigger Thomas. There is a vague similarity between this episode and the one in which Spell figured in Connecticut.

SEVERAL REJECT PARTS

Director Orson Welles had considerable difficulty finding a replacement for Miss Dudley, with several white actresses turning down the part. It was not until last week that he was able to find a substitute in Ann Burr, who was last seen on the stage in "The Talisman," with Gertrude Lawrence and Phillip Merrivale.

The role of Bigger Thomas is being played by Canada Lee. Others in the cast are Evelyn Ellis, who was cast as Bigger's mother; Rena Mitchell, as Vera, Bigger's sister; J. Flasche Riley, Rodester Simmons and Wardell Saunders as Bigger's companions in delinquency, and 12-year-old Lloyd Warren as Bigger's younger brother.

MAR 8 1941

PLAY OPENS MARCH 17

The play opens at the St. James Theatre, Forty-fourth Street west of Broadway, on March 17, but on March 14, there will be a preview for the benefit of New Masses Magazine, with prices scaled from 83 cents to $2.20.

In adapting the novel for the stage, Richard Wright collaborated with Paul Green, who won the Pulitzer prize some years ago for his "Abraham's Bosom." Wright received the Spingarn medal last year for the novel.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

The Long Island Case

Several weeks ago a flash was received in the city room of every newspaper in the east that a Negro servant had raped the wife of his white employer. Reporters were dispatched to the scene. Police from two states went into action, and the ever-watchful FBI took a hand.

Within 24 hours the entire nation had learned that Joseph Spell was under arrest charged with having raped Mrs. Eleanor Strubing, his Greenwich, Conn. employer. She accused him of having attacked her four times in one night. That case is history now. We know now that Spell did not rape Mrs. Strubing.

FEB 2 2 1941

Now, for a study in contrast. Two weeks ago a 12-year-old Colored girl told her parents she was going to have a baby. She explained that a white engineer at a hospital where she had been a patient attacked her in the recreation room several months ago. After his arrest and arraignment, the accused man confessed, and is now awaiting sentence.

FEB 2 2 1941

There was a howl for Spell's scalp the moment after his arrest, yet subsequent events proved he was innocent; there never was any general demand for the engineer's scalp, yet by his own confession, he is guilty. In Spell's case there were those who insisted even after the trial that he shouldn't have been let off scot-free, in spite of the fact evidence in the case showed that the woman, full grown, had agreed to the relationship. In the Long Island case there has been no one demanding a pound of flesh—(just justice)—although it has been shown that a man 42 years seduced a girl 12 and caused her to be pregnant. But Mrs. Strubing is white, rich, and the little girl is black and poor. Right, somehow or other, just seems always to come out on top . . . though sometimes it takes a long time to show up.

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Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y

FATHER FILES COURT CHARGE

Attorney Accused of Fatherhood of Unborn Child

FEB 1941

Los ANGELES (ANP) — Charged with seduction and statutory rape, besides being the father of her unborn child, George Watson, 59 year old white lawyer was arrested at his offices last week on a complaint sworn out by the father of 15-year-old Doris Haney. The father, Walter Leo Haney, stated to Deputy District Attorney Don Avery that Watson had committed four attacks on his daughter who is now in the fifth month of pregnancy as the results of these relations.

According to Haney, the girl had been taken advantage of by Watson when sent by him on an errand to his office. The attorney had been handling legal work for an estate for which the father was administrator, and the girl has always acted as messenger during the transactions.

When Doris realized her condition, she, according to her confession to her father, had told Watson of it. She said that he sent her to a doctor and gave her a money order on a downtown store. Soon after this her father discovered her condition and swore out the complaint.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

I.L.D. JOINS IN FIGHT TO SAVE RAPE SUSPECT

Case Viewed As Another 'Scottsboro' Affair By Coast NAACP

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—Convinced of the innocence of Festus Colman, 35-year old WPA worker sentenced to 65 years on a "rape" charge in a case that shows every indication of being a typical "Scottsboro" case, the International Labor Defense here upon the invitation of the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People joined the fight for his freedom on appeal to the district court of appeals, San Francisco.

Colman, father of two children and known in his neighborhood as a steady family man, was arrested on April 11, in Golden Gate park. He was convicted by an all-white jury and sentenced by one of California's notorious anti-Negro jurists, Judge Steiger. The only evidence against him was given by two southern army officers.

The prosecution charged that Colman entered Golden Gate park at about 11 p.m., came upon Lieutenant Griffith and his girl friend, held them up at the point of a gun, and forced the officer to keep his head in a bush while he attacked the girl. The officer said he finally called for help and a fellow army man arrived to assist in beating up Colman.

The only evidence of "rape" presented against Colman, was by these two officers and the girl.

Colman's story is that he was walking through Golden Gate park after attending a movie and stumbled upon Lieutenant Griffith and the girl lying on a blanket. Startled, and angry Griffith shouted

"In Alabama where I come from we know how to take care of you niggers."

CALIFORNIA

Further proof of Colman's innocence according to the I.L.D., is the fact that the judge himself offered to drop the rape charge if assured that Colman would halt attempts to get a new trial. Colman's answer was, "I would rather spend 10,000 years in jail than admit to something I didn't do."

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Deny Rape Suspect Is Girl Slayer

By Lawrence F. LaMar

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—Det. Lieuts. Harry Fremont and Dwight of the Los Angeles police homicide detail, failed to confirm reports appearing in local publications ,that the 32-year-old rape suspect held in custody after capture for assertedly criminally attacking a 6-year-old child, was connected in any manner with the kidnap-slaying of 9-year-old Dorothy Gordon, found in a shallow countryside grave 18 months ago.

The officers, who have been painstakingly running down every possible clue to the identity of the man described as white, who snatched the little girl while on her way home from an Easter play rehearsal, and after ravishing her, beat her to death, immediately began rounding up the playmate witnesses to the kidnapping with hopes of identifying the man in custody, James McPherson, 32-year-old white.

Although identified by the girls as "the man," police, aided by Deputy District Attorney Charles Mathews, failed to shake the man after an extensive grilling, in his denial of the slaying of the Gordon girl.

The office however, did wring from McPherson, an admission of raping the 6-year-old white child. The man's arrest was brought about by Jeremiah Craig, a Negro.

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Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Swift Justice

Our law-enforcement system has struck back with a severe blow at the criminal element which has been running riot here in recent months. Only five weeks after Mrs. Vada K. Abarca was robbed and raped in a Washington laundry agency a Negro youth has been convicted of the crime. And the jury was so deeply aroused by the character of the offense and the prevalence of lawlessness in Washington that it prescribed the death penalty. That swift and terrible retribution will make many a criminal think twice before continuing his depredations in the District.

Electrocution is a horrible punishment to inflict upon any human being, but resort to it is justified in dealing with criminals of the worst type. Even more significant than the nature of the penalty prescribed in this case is the fact that the police, prosecutors and courts have cooperated to bring a felon to justice in the shortest possible time. That is a factor of the greatest importance in fighting criminals who are willing to take a chance on "beating the rap." In arguing this case District Attorney Curran asked for a verdict "that will make the streets of Washington safe for women." But no one verdict is likely to have that effect. Many felons will probably wait to see whether this exceptional performance is to become routine practice before shaking the dust of Washington from their feet. The District Attorney's office, the court and the police are to be congratulated on the handling of this case, but none should forget that it is day-to-day performance which counts most heavily in law enforcement.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

D.C. Woman's Attacker Is Condemned To Death

Conviction Comes After Curran's Plea To Make Streets In Capital Safe

James R. McKenzie, Negro, 21, was condemned to death by a District Court jury last night for the rape of Mrs. Vada K. Abarca, 26, in a Fourteenth Street laundry agency on June 24.

The 12 men jurors deliberated only an hour and 48 minutes after hearing District Attorney Edward M. Curran's demand for the extreme penalty.

"These crimes have got to be stopped," Curran told the jurors, "and you are the ones that can stop them. I ask you for a verdict that will make the streets of Washingon safe for women."

Speedy Prosecution

The conviction came 35 days after Mrs. Abarca was robbed and ravished in the laundry agancy at 3427 Fourteenth Street Northwest. It was one of the most rapid prosecutions on record here.

Mrs. Abarca testified that she was alone in the place when McKenzie came in, locked the door and threatened her with a gun. She said he rifled the cash register, then asked for her purse and took $10 of her money. Forcing her into the back room, Mrs. Abarca said, the man tied her hands and attacked her, holding his gun at her temple. He fled, leaving her gagged and



Post Staff Photo

MRS. VADA ABARCA.

tied to a clothes rack.

Telltale Hair Found on Him

Two days later Mrs. Abarca rode through the adjoining neighborhood in a police car with two detectives. "Oh, my God! There's the man!" she exclaimed when she saw McKenzie on a street corner. While she collapsed in hysterics, Detective Sergts. Elmer F. Lewis and Daniel H. Jones pounced on McKenzie.

The man denied the charge, claimed at first that he was with a girl friend, and later that he was at home when the attack was committed.

Found on his clothes was a hair which Deputy Coroner Dr. Richard Rosenberg testified belonged to a white person. By chemical tests, Dr. Rosenberg found blood stains on McKenzie's person.

Miss Katherine Harper, 30, 1035 Quebec Place Northwest, was with the officers when McKenzie was caught. She said he was the man who robbed her in another laundry agency the day after Mrs. Abarca was attacked.

Appeal Planned

Defense Counsel John H. Wilson, believing that Miss Harper's identification was open to question, tried in vain during the trial to explore the circumstances of that robbery.

But he was blocked by Federal Judge T. Whitfield Davidson, who said he would not permit "trial of two lawsuits at once."

In appealing for a verdict of not guilty, Wilson urged the jurors to discount Mrs. Abarca's identification, because Government witnesses described her as "highly nervous" and "hysterical."

"The police are persecuting an innocent man," Wilson contended, "because they were on the carpet after a crime wave broke out here."

Wilson and his associate, William A. Powell, said the judgment would be appealed.

The jurors added to their verdict of "guilty" the recommendation "with the death penalty" which is binding upon the court.

Beside the rape charge, McKenzie was convicted on a charge of robbery, the maximum penalty for which is 15 years. Still pending is a charge that he robbed Miss Harper.

Judge Davidson will hear the defense motion for a new trial later in the week. Sentence will not be formally pronounced until this has been heard.

The case was the first personally prosecuted by Curran since he became district attorney more than a year ago. He was aided by Assistant District Attorney Bernard Margolius.

Time able

This time table shows the dramatic speed with which the case was handled by the police and the prosecutors:

June 24—Mrs. Abarca robbed and ravished.
June 25—Miss Harper robbed.
June 26—Both pointed out McKenzie and he was arrested.
June 27—The police announced that Dr. Greenberg has developed strong circumstantial evidence.
July 8—McKenzie indicted.
July 22—Last preliminary motions disposed of before Judge Davidson.
July 28—McKenzie placed on trial.
July 29—The death verdict.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Girl, Soldier Friend Tell Jury of Attack

An 18-year-old Washington girl and her soldier friend Monday told 12 jurors how a tall, husky youth attacked them in Patterson Woods one night last July and District Attorney Edward M. Curran urged that Roland J. Lindsay, 19, be sent to the electric chair for rape.

Lawrence McCullough, a Fort Meade trainee, told from the witness stand that he was sitting on the grass in the park with his girl on July 19. A man, whom he identified as Lindsay, crept up on them in the dark, the soldier said, and threatened them with arrest.

"He said he was a guard and we were on Government property and would have to pay a fine," the soldier related in response to Curran's questioning. "I told him I had no money and suggested we go to a police station. Then he grabbed my girl friend by the wrist and at that moment I knew what was in his mind."

After a scuffle the soldier said he was knocked unconscious by a brick. At one point he stepped from the witness stand to show the jurors a scar where his throat was cut. The wound was treated at Walter Reed Hospital.

On the witness stand for nearly two hours, the girl accused Lindsay of raping her and of subjecting her to other abuses after her escort was unconscious.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Catoe Describes Strangling of Victims

AUG 30 1941



CONFESSION—Showing his powerful hands, Jarvis R. Catoe tells Capt. Ward Reck at police headquarters how he strangled his victims

AUG 30 1941 Post Staff Photo

home at 307 Virginia Avenue Southeast. He had gone there in response to a "room for rent" advertisement. After making a survey of the premises to be sure none was home to hear her screams, he dragged her into the basement.

On October 26, a colored man attempted to enter a rooming house on Lamont Street Northwest. The woman refused him admittance and he went away.

From that time on Catoe's crimes became more vicious and more frequent. On November 26, according to his statements, he criminally assaulted a 62-year-old Negro woman on R Street Northwest.

His Second Murder

Two days later he committed his second murder. He admits strangling to death Mattie Steward, 48, Negro, at 1423 Swann Street Northwest.

Catoe told police that on December 17, he attacked a Negro woman on Fairmont Street Northwest, in his automobile, where he lured her on the pretense of driving her to work.

Catoe's last four confessed attacks ended with the deaths of his victims, he admitted.

Ada Puller, 21, Negro, of no fixed address, was strangled in a washroom at an apartment house at 13323 Corcoran Street Northwest, on January 22 of this year.

Rose Simons Abramowitz was slain in her apartment at 1901 Sixteenth Street Northwest, March 8.

Jessie Elizabeth Strieff, 23, was strangled June 15, in a garage behind 1509 S Street Northwest.

Evelyn Anderson, 26-year-old New York waitress, was choked to death in New York on August 4.

The suspect admitted to police three other sex crimes, but a search of the record showed they have never been reported to police.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Same Pattern Seen In 16 Sex Crimes

AUG 30 1941

All of Victims, Except Three Slain White Women, Ran Rooming Houses, Catoe Says

Jarvis Roosevelt Catoe, 36-year-old Negro, by his own admission, committed an amazing total of 16 sex crimes, including 7 brutal rape-murders, in 18 months, beginning on St. Valentine's Day last year.

His depredations with the exception of the slayings of Rose Abramowitz, Jessie Elizabeth Strieff and Evelyn D. Andersen, were committed on Negro women, all of whom operated rooming houses.

It was this fact—the similarity in all of the cases involving Negroes—which convinced local detectives in their investigation after Catoe's arrest Thursday.

First of the mysterious criminal attacks was reported by a 56-year-old Negro woman of T Street Northwest, on February 14, 1940. During the ensuing months, ending with the Strieff murder, reports of criminal attacks came in at intervals.

Crimes Follow Pattern

Each reported rooming house keeper assaulted by a dark-skinned Negro. Three of the assault victims were strangled.

The attack on the T Street woman was typical of all the others. She was alone in her home when a man who said he was a mechanic sought to rent a room.

He insisted, the woman said, on seeing all of her vacant rooms—a request designed to survey the house to determine the number of occupants. The woman was home alone, the intruder learned, and he criminally assaulted her, Catoe said.

Catoe next admitted attempting to enter the home of a 45-year-old Negr owoman on S Street Northwest on August 30. She would not let him in, however, because of a previous warning from police to be on the lookout for the man described by the first woman.

Same Modus Operandi

It was about 11 a. m. when he approached the second woman. At 2:30 p. m. the same day, Catoe confessed, he went to the home of still another Negro woman, 30, on Eleventh Street Northwest. He lured her to the basement and criminally assaulted her.

Ten days later, Catoe attacked a 65-year-old Negro woman at her Ward Place Northwest home, he said.

Catoe admits that his next foray on September 27 ended in the murder of Lucy Kidwell, 56, Negro, who was raped and strangled in her

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

'AT LEAST THAT MANY'

10 Sex Killings Are Admitted By Negro Who Choked Victims

AUG 30 1941

WASHINGTON, [AP]—Counting the number of his victims on his fingers, Jarvis R. Catoe, 36-year-old Negro and self-confessed sex slayer, told police Friday he had choked 10 women to death.

"At least that many," he said.

Police said that seven of his victims had been identified by Catoe's statements. They included Jessie Elizabeth Strieff, pretty War department clerk who was assaulted and slain here on a rainy Sunday afternoon.

One of Catoe's killings, according to the police, occurred in New York on Aug. 4. The victim was Mrs. Evelyn D. Andersen, a Bronx waitress. Police said he took the woman's wrist watch, gave it to a girl friend, who gave it to a man who pawned it. It was traced back from the pawn shop to the woman, and she gave the authorities Catoe's Washington address.

The Bronx grand jury returned a first degree murder indictment against Catoe in the Anderson case Friday.

In addition to Miss Strieff and Mrs. Andersen, police said Catoe's confessed victims were, Mrs. Rose Somins Abramowitz, 25, a bride of one month, March 8; and four Negro women over a period of two years.

Miss Strieff, a pretty War department clerk recently from Iowa was caught in the rain while going from her apartment to a delicatessen on the day of her death.

As police related Catoe's story, he was driving by and she, mistaking his car for a taxicab, waved her hand. He offered to take her to a delicatessen. She entered the car and he drove it into a nearby alley garage, raped and killed her.

AUG 30 1941

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Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Choked 10 Women, Catoe Says . . . Expects to Die for Slayings; Inquest Is Set for Tuesday

AUG 30 1941

Fell Clutch of Circumstance

Chance Led Catoe's Victims to Their Deaths

Mrs. Abramowitz Wanted Someone To Wax Floors

By George W. Thorpe
Post Staff Writer

Chance, as unfathomable as it was grim, was acceptable for the rape-deaths of Jessie Elizabeth Strieff and Rose Simons Abramowitz.

Since these crimes were committed, a thousand Washington women have told themselves:

"That might have been me."

A thousand Washington men have said: "That might have been my wife."

AUG 30 1941

They were right.

Pure chance, as well as Jarvis Roosevelt Catoe, the confessed sex murderer, was responsible for the slayings of these two women.

The suspect's confession and police reconstruction of the crimes established this yeterday.

At 9:25 a. m. March 8, Mrs. Abram-Abramowitz was standing in her ment at 1901 Sixteenth Street Northwest, probably gazing ruefully at the floor of her kitchen. The linoleum was badly in need of washing.

Leaving her apartment, she descended to the lobby of the apartment house in search of the janitor. Had she found him, Mrs. Abramowitz would have ordered him to wax her floors. He was nowhere in evidence.

When Mrs. Abramowitz came to the sidewalk she noticed a Negro



BETTY STRIBLING,
as she left Detective Bureau after identifying Miss Strieff's umbrella

walking up T Street, near Sixteenth Street, only a few feet away.

"Have you seen the janitor?" she inquired of Catoe, thinking he might be acquainted with the employe.

"No, I haven't," Catoe replied.

"Have you the time to do some work for me?" Mrs. Abramowitz explained.

"What kind of work?" inquired the man.

"Waxing my floors,' 'she answered.

Catoe volunteered to do the waxing.

Anxious to get the work done, Mrs. Abramowitz told the man to follow her upstairs. She led him through the living room and into the kitchen where she pointed to the unwaxed linoleum.

Suddenly, Catoe told police, he grabbed Mrs. Abramowitz around the throat, throttled her, and assaulted her. Then, calmly, he carried her dying into her bedroom, placed her o the bed ad smoothed out her rumpled dress.

Again.

At 2 p. m. June 15 Betty Strieff left her apartment house, 2110 Nineteenth Street Northwest, to buy a stick of butter at some nearby delicatessen. Her fiance, Stanley LeBlanc, was coming to call an hour later. She and her roommate. Christine Tankersley, were to lunch in the meantime.

Miss Strieff walked south on Nineteenth Street and when she arrived at the intersection of Florida Avenue it commenced to rain—hard.

Just at this time she saw a black sedan approaching down Nineteenth Street. Through the rain it looked like a taxi, and the Negro at the wheel wore a chauffeur's cap. She held up her hand.

The car pulled up and stopped.

"Oh, I'm sorry," said Miss Strieff, inspecting the car more closely and recognizing it as a private automobile.

At this point, Catoe's account and police theories differ. The suspect quotes himself as follows:

"No, this isn't a cab, lady. But can I take you where you're going." Then, says Catoe, Miss Strieff climbed in the car.

Police believe Catoe grabbed the girl and pulled her into the auto.

At any rate, Catoe admits that after driving her down Florida Avenue a block on the pretext of taking Miss Strieff to a delicatessen he turned back. Then drove until he reached an alley near Fifteenth and S Streets, swung into a garage, and there attacked her.

Had it not been for Mrs. Abramowitz's unwaxed floor and a sudden squall of rain, both workings of chance, Betty Strieff and Rose Abramowitz probably would be alive today.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

War On Crime

AUG 30 1941

Washington's struggle to counteract a long sustained crime wave has suddenly taken a most optimistic turn. Jarvis Catoe's confessions to the police and substantiating evidence in the hands of officers point to the solution of seven murders and seven criminal assaults on Washington women in the last two years. It was the wrist watch of one victim pawned in New York which led to the arrest of Catoe. Rejoicing over the apparent solution of so many heinous crimes must also be heightened that it was one man who was responsible for them. True, it is astonishing that one man could pile up such an appalling record without being caught. For the moment, however, this sobering thought is overshadowed by the fact that our law-enforcement machinery appears to have brought to an end an atrocious series of crimes.

This good news follows, moreover, close on the heels of the Police Department's reorganization. The promotion of Capt. Harvey G. Callahan to be an inspector is particularly a good sign. Inspector Callahan had been critical of the police in the recent House investigation. His courageous testimony may have irked some members of the force, but its candor and sincerity marked him as an alert officer who has the public welfare at heart. His promotion is an encouraging indication that Maj. Kelly and the Board of Commissioners intend to select the department's most competent men for positions of trust.

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Inspector Richard H. Mansfield appears also to be the right man to bring the Detective Bureau out of the doldrums. He is well trained in the art of running down criminals who strike and leave little evidence behind. Because of the weakness of the department's detective work in recent years, however, his responsibility will be much greater than any he has previously assumed. One of the most hopeful developments growing out of this shakeup is the establishment of a detective training school under Capt. John Fowler, a ballistics expert who got his background of training at the Police School of Northwestern University. If advancement to the rank of lieutenant is made contingent upon graduation from the new school, as recommended by the Commissioners' board of inquiry, a marked improvement in detective work may be anticipated.

Commissioner Young and Maj. Kelly appear to be working in close harmony in bringing about these hopeful changes. There are indications, moreover, that most of the constructive suggestions made by the special board of inquiry and the House investigating committee will be approved by the Commissioners. A good start toward regeneration of the Police Department is thus being made, and the shakeup is already bearing fruit.

Confesses Seven Murders

AUG 2 91941



Jarvis Roosevelt Catoe is seen, at right, as he was booked in Washington for the rape-murder of Betty Strieff, War Department clerk, one of seven women he is alleged to have admitted murdering.

Admits Killing 6 Women in Capital, 1 Here

AUG 2 91941

A cool, almost amused Negro confessed in Washington today to the raping and slaying of seven women, including Mrs. Evelyn Andersen, a waitress, 26, whose body was found in the Bronx on the night of Aug. 4.

The Negro, Jarvis Roosevelt Catoe, 30, a former undertaker's assistant, was held in Washington for further questioning, while the Bronx County grand jury moved with extraordinary swiftness in the Bronx angle of the case. High police officials appeared before the panel this morning and in record time a first degree murder indictment was handed up for the slaying of Mrs. Andersen.

Despite the action of the grand jury, it was not believed that the Washington authorities would surrender the prisoner to the police here, but would, instead, prosecute him for one of the Washington slayings.

In Washington, Catoe, collected and unemotional, is telling in careful details the history of his crimes, according to reports from authorities there.

Faces Quiz on Other Crimes.

Although he confessed readily to seven murders, Washington authorities were not satisfied that he had not committed more, and after a brief respite were planning to question him about a number of other sex crimes, some of them going back to 1934.

Meanwhile Capt. Patrick McVeigh, in command of the Wakefield section of the Bronx, and Inspector John J. O'Connor, of the Bronx, went before the grand jury to testify.

AUG 2 91941

The confession, the Washington police continued, solved the wave of sex crimes which swept through the capital last spring, and which caused Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt to warn the thousands of girls who went there to take government jobs to be careful. The crimes inspired such an outcry in Congress that the Police Department was subjected to a shakeup.

Six Others Survived.

Besides the Andersen murder, police said, Catoe admitted he raped and murdered on June 15 Betty Strieff, a pretty young girl from Des Moines, Iowa, who went to Washington last spring to take a clerkship in the War Department. He also confessed to attacking and murdering Mrs. Rose Abramowitz, who went to Washington from St. Louis to take a government job, and whose body was found on March 8. Four Negro women, raped and murdered, rounded out his list of confessed victims, police said.

In addition, police said, he confessed to having attacked six other women who survived his attacks.

Police chemists examined stains found in Catoe's automobile believed to have been made by blood. The seat covers had been removed. Police believe Mrs. Andersen was slain in the car.

On June 15, a Sunday, Miss Strieff was preparing dinner for her fiance in her apartment. It was raining. She put a transparent raincoat over her play suit and ran out to get butter from a neighborhood delicatessen. Her naked body was found 20 hours later in a garage on a nearby alley.

All Were Strangled.

The method employed in all the crimes was strikingly similar. All the victims were strangled after they had been raped. Some were robbed, some were not.

Catoe was arrested because he stole a wrist watch from Mrs. Andersen before she was flung dead, from an automobile. Mrs. Anderson's husband, Erhardt, had given her the watch and had made a record of the case number. Detectives found the watch in a pawnshop. It had been pawned by Catoe's Harlem sweetheart. She said he had given it to her and, at the request of New York police, he was arrested at his home here, in the neighborhood where most of the recent crimes against women have occurred.

Material Witnesses Held.

Two Negro women and a Negro man were each held in $10,000 bail when arraigned before Bronx County Judge James M. Barrett as material witnesses in the Andersen slaying.

Mandy Reid of 1 E. 113th St. was said to be the woman to whom Catoe gave Mrs. Andersen's pocketbook after the slaying, and Hazel Johnson of 6 E. 133rd St. the wristwatch which later proved the slayer's undoing. The man was Charles Woolfolk of 6 E. 133rd St., who was implicated in the pawning of the watch, according to the police.

John W. Neary, foreman of the grand jury, commended all police work involved in the solution of the crime, and said he would forward the jury's commendation to Police Commissioner Valentine and other officials.

Identified by Six Women.

Police announced he had been identified by four Negro women who had been raped and survived and by two who had fought off his attacks.

AUG 2 91941

Assistant District Attorney Francis X. O'Brien of the Bronx flew to Washington with detectives and obtained Catoe's confession to the Andersen slaying. Washington detectives then began questioning him, involving him in hopeless contradictions which led to the other confessions.

Police said Catoe was born in Kershaw, S. C., and had worked and lived in Washington most of the last 10 years. At one time he was a houseman in a home near Miss Strieff's apartment.

Last winter three Negro women were raped and strangled and seven others were raped in that neighborhood. In each case the assailant called at a house where a sign announced that rooms were for rent. After satisfying himself that only the woman was in the house, he attacked her. It was the survivors among this group of women who identified Catoe.

Murders Solved



Jessie Elizabeth Strieff, Washington stenographer, whose murder is confessed by Jarvis Roosevelt Catoe.



Evelyn Dorothea Andersen, New York woman through whose strangulation police say seven murders are solved.

37L-1941

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Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Another Assault Case Reported In Washington

WASHINGTON, June 24.—(AP)—A daylight assault by a negro on a 26-year-old married woman in a dry cleaning shop was reported today to police still seeking a clue to the strangling of Jessie Elizabeth Strieff, 23-year-old War Department stenographer.

Police said they had received information that the negro entered the shop, on busy 14th Street, in midafternoon, pulled a pistol from his pocket, bound the woman clerk to an iron rack and gagged her, and afterwards walked out with the contents of the cash register. Deputy Coroner Robert Rosenberg said she had been criminally attacked.

Miss Strieff was attacked ten days ago when she went to a neighborhood delicatessen in a rainstorm for a quarter pound of butter. Her nude body was found in a nearby garage next day.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

WOMAN CLERK RAPED BY BANDIT IN HOLDUP OF WASHINGTON SHOP

Washington, D. C., June 25 (AP).—A special squad of 20 detectives pressed a search today for a Negro gunman who raped Mrs. Vada [Kitty] Abarca late yesterday after robbing the cleaning shop in which she was working alone.

At the same time a picked squad of 24 detectives continued the hunt for the rape-slayer of Miss Jessie Elizabeth Strieff, war department stenographer whose nude body was found in a garage June 16.

Police said they were developing fingerprints found in the cleaning shop. A detective was rushed to Zanesville, O., after Police Chief C. H. Courtney there reported the arrest of a man who was "babbling about the Strieff case." He said the man could not explain bites, scratches, and abrasions on his body. Police believe Miss Strieff scratched and fought her assailant.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Caught by Men on Beat

Youth, 19, Admits Attack On D. C. Girl and Soldier

A 19-year-old youth who had been in the Capital less than a week last night admitted criminally attacking a Washington girl, 18, and beating and slashing her soldier escort last Saturday night. Police had his signed confession within 36 hours after he had committed the crime.



BEACH



SLATTERY

This confession ended a day of questioning by detectives, and brought to brilliant climax an arrest that resulted from remarkable work on the part of the "policeman on the beat."

Directly responsible for bringing the man to a quick accounting for his assault in Patterson Woods Hill in the 600 block of New York Avenue Northeast, were two privates of the Twelfth Precinct—Daniel Slattery and James G. Beach.

Slattery first saw the man, a burly, solid-muscled Negro, on the street last Friday. The policeman, cruising in a scout car, spotted the man as a stranger on his beat. So he stopped his car, got out and began talking to the man. He wanted to know who the fellow was, where he came from, what he was doing.

"He told me he had come up from North Carolina on Thursday. He had a job with a bottling concern on New York Avenue," reported Slattery. When he was through with the interview the policemen made notes on the man's appearance. There was no special reason for suspecting the man, but Slattery wanted to make certain he had a clear impression of the fellow.

That was probably the last Slattery thought of the incident until Saturday night when detectives questioning the victims of a criminal attack in Patterson Woods obtained from her a very definite description of her assailant.

Description on Air

The description went on the air. Slattery picked it up, and was surprised to note how closely the description of the hunted man fitted the mental picture he had of the fellow he had seen just a few days before.

So yesterday morning Slattery told his partner Beach to go to the bottling works and "look the man over." Beach did so, and made an arrest at 10 a. m.

The man steadfastly denied any connection with the crime, but broke down under the questioning of veterans E. E. Scott and L. N. Wilson, detective sergeants from the Detective Bureau, who were called into the case by the police chief.

A native of Winston-Salem, N. C., the man arrived in this city on Thursday, he told Capt. Ira B. Keck, acting head of the Detective Bureau.

He immediately got a job with a bottling concern on New York Avenue Northeast near the scene of the crime.

Was Sleeping Out

When questioned at Police Headquarters the mon told Capt. Keck he had no abode but had been sleeping in the open at a lumber yard on New York Avenue near his place of work.

He said that he was wandering in the Patterson Woods Saturday night when he came across the man and woman sitting on a park bench under a tree. He approached them and told them he was a watchman and demanded money. The soldier had only 15 cents. He talked with the couple for a while, he told Capt. Keck.

Capt. Keck said the man then confessed that he engaged in a fight with McCullough and hit him with a rock and then criminally attacked the girl.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Herring Asks G-Men to Help In Strieff Case

Jessie Elizabeth Strieff's Senator Clyde L. Herring (Democrat), of Iowa, announced last night he would call upon the Federal Bureau of Investigation to help Washington police run down her slayer.

Herring, whose son knew the 23-year-old War Department clerk as a school chum in Des Moines, Iowa, was the man to whom the girl's roommate, Christine Tankersley, turned for assistance when Metropolitan Police still carried Miss Strieff's disappearance as a missing persons case.

Herring called police headquarters and asked that search for the girl be pressed. An hour later, he said, "we were called back and told that she had been found—and how."

Senator Insistent

Aroused by the brutal murder of the girl, Senator Herring immediately got in touch with the Department of Justice to ask that the scienific crime-detection facilities of the FBI be made available to local investigators. He was unable to reach FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and was told by the Attorney General's office that the agency participates in local crime investigations only when a Federal law has been violated. Herring insisted, however, that this case is different and proposed to make his reasons for thinking so known to officials.

"This is a Federally governed city and this was a Federal employe who was involved, and I think that puts an entirely different light upon it," he said. "It may be that this is not the law. In that event, I believe Congress very quickly will make it the law.

"Congress must act to change the situation here. I don't know of a city in the United States that is so poorly governed. We don't have an efficient Police Department. It seems to me that a person is safer in a little town in Iowa where they only have a town marshal. The police say they have no funds for an adequate force. I don't know whether that is true or not.

"Inventory" Asked

"I used to be against local self-government for Washington, but now I am not so sure about that. Apparently, the Federal Government has made a failure of trying to govern a municipality and perhaps we should turn the city back to the people and let them govern it themselves."

Senator Guy Gillette (Democrat) for whom Miss Strieff also was a constituent, joined the Capitol Hill clamor for early solution of the murder, while Chairman Pat McCarran of the Senate Dsitrict Committee, called for an "inventory" of the police department.

"It would seem that any carefully planned investigation would disclose theauthor of this crime," said Gillette. "If the local authorities are unable to cope with the situatino, they can get in touch with agencies which can.

McCarran Cautions Hasty Critics

"There is nothing in the law to prevent District police from using facilities of the FBI and if they don't they are subject to criticism."

McCarran pointed out that in "revolting" crimes there always is a tendency to blame some governmental agency and cautioned against "hasty" criticism of the police. He added:

"The police department should sit down and take an inventory of itself and after it has done that it may be that someone else should take an inventory of the police department."

Times-Picayune
New Orleans, La

JANITOR QUIZZED AFTER SLAYING OF GIRL IN CAPITAL

New Orleans Fiance Gives Tips That Centers Police Suspicion

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

Washington, June 1[illegible]—Jessie Elizabeth Strieff, former Drake university coed, left her home in Des Moines, Ia., last year for a career with the federal government.

She got a job with the war department last fall, found a sweetheart last winter and disappeared Sunday from the apartment she

shared with another government girl here.

Today, her nude body was found in the garage of a retired George Washington university professor's home, about eight blocks from her apartment. She had been strangled to death and before that, police said, the 23-year-old clerk-stenographer had been criminally attacked.

Suspicion centered on James Fairfax, a 60-year-old Negro janitor at the apartment house where Miss Strieff and her roommate, Christine Tankersley, were preparing dinner Sunday when the Strieff girl volunteered to go to a corner store for more butter.

Fairfax was taken into custody Monday noon, forced to undergo certain physical and chemical tests, then brought face to face with the body of his erstwhile tenant.

The questioning of Fairfax stemmed from the activities Sunday afternoon of the slain girl's sweetheart, Stanley LeBlanc, a New Orleans youth who works for the farm credit administration and who had planned to marry Miss Strieff.

When the Strieff girl failed to return from the store, Miss Tankersley phoned LeBlanc at his boarding house. He and a pal, Dean Valentine, spent the afternoon searching for her.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Another Girl Attacked In Washington Area As Manhunt Pushed

Another Suspect Pickup In Assault-Slaying Of Pretty Federal Worker

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Capital police pushed their inquiry into the brutal attack-slaying of pretty Miss Jessie Elizabeth Strieff Wednesday and said they had a report from nearby Maryland officers that a 20-year-old college girl said she had been attacked by a Negro early Wednesday who forced his way into her taxicab.

Homicide Chief George Darnall said information on the new case was meager and that the girl, in a dazed and semi-hysterical condition when found by a filling station watchman, would be questioned later. He said the circumstances of the alleged attack had not been learned.

Pushing the manhunt for the slayer of 23-year-old Miss Strieff, officers early Wednesday picked up a man at a filling station and held him for questioning after the proprietor notified police the man mumbled incoherently while reading accounts of the slayings of the War Department stenographer.

Homicide Chief George Darnall said he was the only suspect being held, as James Fairfax, Negro janitor of the apartment in which the girl lived, was released Tuesday night. Darnall said a complete check of statements made by Fairfax bore them out to the smallest detail.

There was a flurry of excitement Wednesday morning in the neighborhood where the nude body was found in a garage when a girl, undressing in a home a few doors away, was reported seeing the silhouette of a man at her window. Police scoured the neighborhood, but found no trace of an intruder.

Police said their investigation also would cover reports from residents of the neighborhood that they heard a woman screaming early Monday in the vicinity of the garage in which Miss Strieff's body was found a few hours later that day.

Capt. Ira Keck, acting detective chief, ordered a roundup of men previously arrested in connection with sex crimes, while a reinforced homicide squad of 14 detectives ran down scores of tips and rumors.

Authorities admitted, however, they still were without worthwhile clues to the slayer of the girl.

She had been attacked and strangled, a coroner's report said. Missing were the blue raincoat and playsuit Miss Strieff was wearing when she left home to go to a nearby store, and police squads combed sewers, trash heaps and garbage collections in an effort to locate them.

Maj. Ernest W. Brown, police superintendent, offered a reward of $500 for information leading to the slayer's arrest and conviction; The Washington Times-Herald offered $1,000.

The case was mentioned with expressions of regret Tuesday at press conferences held by President and Mrs. Roosevelt and Representative Hebert (D., La.) demanded a congressional investigation of the police department.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

SUSPECTS QUESTIONED
(From Yesterday's Final Edition)

WASHINGTON, July 30.—(AP)—Police questioned a number of suspects Sunday in a hunt for a Negro who criminally attacked Miss Joyce Smith, [illegible] throat of her escort, Edward J. McCullough, 32, an army private, but filed no formal charges. McCullough, a Washington salesman stationed at Fort Meade, Md., was reported improved at Walter Reed Hospital. The assailant had struck him on the head with a rock and cut his throat with a razor blade as he and the girl were sitting in a wooded park Saturday night. Miss Smith, who was treated for shock, furnished a detailed description of the attacker and picked out one rogue's gallery picture which resembled him.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Youth Indicted for Attack On Girl, Slashing of Soldier

Roland J. Lindsey, Negro, 19, was indicted yesterday on charges of trying to kill a soldier and criminally assaulting his girl companion the night of July 19.

The girl reported to police 10 days ago that a man had ravished her in the Patterson Woods, near New York Avenue Northeast.

Beaten with a brick and slashed with a razor, her companion, Pvt. Lawrence McCullough, of the 121st Engineers, Fort Meade, is still in a serious condition.

Fighting the assailant, McCullough suffered a concussion of the brain, a 5-inch slash in his neck, a broken finger on his right hand and numerous cuts on his scalp. He is in Walter Reed Hospital.

Patrolmen Daniel J. Slattery and James G. Beach, of the Twelfth Precinct, arrested Lindsey. The police said he admitted the fight and made a partial admission of the assault.

District Attorney Curran said the case would be brought to trial promptly and that the extreme penalty would be demanded.

The indictment was one of 56 presented yesterday.

The charges against those indicted were:

First-degree murder—James A. Dent, 40, Negro, for the death of Samuel J. McDaniels, 57, Negro, June 8 of stab wounds he suffered in an affray at 925 Twenty-seventh Street Northwest.

Second-degree murder—George Wilson, 35, Negro, for the death of Gertrude Evans, 35, Negro, June 21 of pistol wounds she suffered at 1848 Fifth Street Northwest.

Rape and assault with intent to kill—Roland J. Lindsey, 19, Negro.

Abortion causing death—Rosena Newman, 47, Negro, for the death of Mrs. Mary Jacobs Russell on May 28.

Manslaughter—Charles Hines, 33, Negro, for the death of Beatrice Williams, 34, Negro, of knife wounds she suffered at Massachusetts Avenue and G Street Northwest on June 28; James A. Smith, 35, Negro, for the death of William Greenlee, 37, Negro, May 25 of a blow on the head he suffered at 620 M Street Northwest.

Nonsupport of child—Paul P. Thurston, 29, Negro.

Grand larceny—James W. Robinson, 21, Negro (four indictments).

Unauthorized use of automobile—James G. Ford, 19, Negro (six indictments); Arthur Were, 18, Negro; James L. Lyles, 18, Negro.

Moving a stolen automobile interstate—Nils Edward Smith, 26.

Housebreaking and larceny—Henry Price, 37, Negro.

Robbery—Sherman [illegible], Negro; Sylvester Bennett, 37, Negro; Andrew W. Carter, 19, Negro (seven indictments); Edward V. Freeman, 19, Negro; James L. Rogers, 20, Negro (ten indictments); Charles E. Gant, 18, Negro (three indictments); Joseph E. Ball, 19, Negro.

Blackmail—Thursa J. Wilson, 29, Negro.

White slavery—Nicholas J. Koutouras, 42.

Having untaxed liquor—Oltha J. Watson, 41, Negro; Charles LeRoy Lampkin, 35; Irving L. West, 37, Negro; Harold Owen, 37, Negro.

Selling narcotics—Richard Rosenberry.

Running a lottery and having numbers slips—Michael Sesso, 31; Anthony Sesso, 36; Wilbur E. Norris, 28, Negro.

Converting a dead man's property—Leslie N. Kirby.

Presenting false claims to Government—Winfield S. Hern, 31.

Assaulting policemen—Robert Lee Foster, 25, Negro (four indictments).

Embezzling Government funds—William W. [illegible].

Forging Federal Savings certificates—Daniel Mathis, 22, Negro.

Assault with dangerous weapon—Charles E. Smith, 33, Negro; Robert Lee Foster, 25, Negro; Morgan Williams, 27, Negro; Joseph M. Butler, 19, Negro; Frank Little, 38, Negro; Philip D. Lewis, 34, Negro.

Assault with intent to commit carnal knowledge—Charles W. Ogden, 76; John Henry Russell, 29.

Criminal conspiracy and assault—Walter E. Johnson, Douglas Freeman, Lewis Crew, Clarence Blackwell, James H. Powell, Russell Bruce, Clive Henderson, George Marshall.

The grand jury dismissed these charges:

Manslaughter—Novella Granes, 22, Negro; Walter E. Basye, Arthur A. Cooper.

Grand larceny—George E. Spryo, 19.

Receiving stolen property—Mary Ross, 35, Negro.

Assault with dangerous weapon—Marion A. Dixon, 42, Negro; Turner A. Seaton, 55.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Catoe Not Classified As Sex Criminal

Police Failed To Label Slayer After Jail Terms

By LOUIS LAUTIER

WASHINGTON, D. C.—When Jarvis Theodore Roosevelt Catoe six years ago began his series of sex-crimes which culminated in his indictment on fifteen charges of murder and rape, police failed to classify him as a sex-criminal, it was learned last Wednesday.

Whether this failure was due to the fact that his victims were colored or he was a police informer, or to mere negligence on the part of the police is not known.

But a likely presumption is that if this failure had not occurred, and the police had been diligent, Miss Betty [illegible]itz, both white, would not have been murdered and raped.

Police said a check of Cato's record revealed he was convicted on May 7, 1935, on two charges of indecent exposure and sentenced to pay a $100 fine or serve 90 days in jail on one charge and $50 or 45 days in jail on the other. He was jailed and served until September 11, 1935.

JAILED SECOND TIME

Shortly after his release he was arrested again on two more charges of indecent exposure. He was convicted on the new charges on December 2, 1935, and received sentences of a fine of $200 or 90 days in jail on each charge. He went to jail and was released on May 5, 1936.

Ordinarily, photographs and fingerprints of criminals are classified according to their mode of operating. Pickpockets are grouped together. So are burglars, confidence men, sex-criminals and so on. Such grouping facilitates the work of the police.

According to this scheme, used by nearly every police department in this country, Cato should have been classified as a sex-criminal and his photograph and fingerprints filed with those of other known sex-criminals. Instead they were put into the general file.

RAPES SAME PATTERN

About four years later a series of rapes, all of the same pattern, began to occur in the northwest section where Catoe lived.

Mrs. Elizabeth Barry, 64-year old rooming house keeper, was raped in the 1700 block of T St., northwest on February 14, 1940. On August 30, 1940, Mrs. Josephine Greenlease, 50-year old rooming-house keeper, was raped at her home in the 2600 block of Eleventh St., northwest. Mrs. Cora E. Doy, 65-year old landlady, was raped and robbed on September 9, 1940.

In accordance with police routine these victims were asked to view photographs from the sex-criminal file in an effort to identify their attacker.

But a photograph of Catoe was not in the sex-criminal file, despite his conviction of four offenses of indecent exposure, and none of these women had a chance to identify him.

The next time Catoe struck, he killed. His first murder victim was Mrs. Lucy Kidwell, a 65-year old rooming-house keeper. She was criminally attacked and trangled to death in a basement rear room of her home at 307 Virginia Avenue, southeast on September 27, 1940.

She had advertised a room for rent. Her body was found by Alvin Holmes, a nephew.

Evelyn D. Anderson, 26-year old white waitress, that [illegible]edearly in the morning and had left for work.

In a memo book in her home, police found the number of her watch, which was missing when the body was found. Discovery of the watch in a Harlem pawn shop led the trail to Catoe, who was arrested here.

ADMITS KILLINGS

According to Catoe, he raped and killed again on November 28, 1940. The victim this time was Mrs. Mattie Steward, aged 28 years. She was found dead by a roomer in the house where she lived at 1423 Swann St., northwest.

Blood stains in the basement indicated the criminal attack and murder had taken

Mrs. Anderson was found dead on a vacant lot in the Bronx, New York City, on the evening of August 4. She had been dropped from a car shortly before her body was found.

New York police learned she had said goodbye to her husband.

Although Catoe's one-man crime wave mounted until he had committed 15 capital offenses in the District of Columbia, it was his rape and murder of Mrs.

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Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Confessed Killer Blames 'Nervous Spells' for Seven Sex Murders

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(Oother Stories, Pictures on Pages 3 and 14.)

A coroner's inquest into the rape slaying of Jessie Elizabeth Strieff was set last night for 11:30 a. m. Tuesday as Washington justice moved swiftly to bring to account 36-year-old Jarvis Roosevelt Catoe.

Confessed killer of Miss Strieff, five other Washington women and a New York waitress, the Negro prisoner arrested Thursday sat last night in a Twelfth Precinct Station cell after a recital of events that stunned even the most veteran policemen.

Choked "About Ten"

"About ten," was Catoe's reply when Capt. Ira Keck, assistant chief of detectives, asked him yesterday afternoon how many women he had choked.

The prisoner held out the fingers of both hands to illustrate.

"What's the matter with you?" asked Keck.

"Have spells," was the reply.

"How often do you have them?"

"I don't know. I have them sometimes when I drink a little wine, but not always."

"What makes you do those things?"

"I feel like that after reading detective stories about rape cases and looking at pictures of nude women. I did wrong and I'm glad to get it off my mind. I did it and I'm sorry."

Not "Nervous" Any More

Catoe said, in reply to another question, that he isn't nervous any more.

"I've got to give my life but I'm glad it's off my mind," he declared.

He said he always used his hands in killing, though earlier he had told detectives he used a belt to strangle Miss Strieff.

Dr. A. Magruder MacDonald, District coroner, announced that he would certify the rape-murder cases of Mrs. Rose Abramowitz and four Washington Negro women to the grand jury without inquests.

Jury Already Sworn

A coroner's jury was sworn in at the District Morgue shortly after discovery on June 16 of the body of Miss Strieff, 23-year-old War Department clerk. It is this group which will hear evidence against Catoe, a former cab driver and undertaker's assistant, and decide whether he is to be held for the grand jury.

Positive identification late yesterday of the white umbrella carried by Miss Strieff when she left her midtown apartment on June 15, never to return, tightened the web about Catoe.

Betty Stribling, a Federal worker who was Miss Strieff's friend, went to police headquarters and examined the umbrella. It had been recovered by police on information willingly supplied by the mild, cooperative prisoner, who said he had given it to a woman living in the 1500 block of Swann Street Northwest.

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"That positively is my umbrella!" exclaimed Miss Stribling, when it was produced by Detective Sergt. Aubrey Tolson.

An Important Exhibit

Thus police and the United States Attorney's office came into an important courtroom exhibit which is expected to figure prominently in their attempt to send Catoe to the electric chair.

It was the identification of the umbrella, together with the fact that the Strieff slaying was the most recent of the crimes ascribed to Catoe and the fact that a signed confession had been obtained, that prompted the decision to base Tuesday's inquest on this single case.

"As soon as the coroner's inquest is held," said Acting United States Attorney John W. Fihelly, "the Jesse Strieff and the Rose Abramowitz cases will be presented to the grand jury. If indictments are returned, they will be set down for immediate trial.

"The only way to prevent and discourage such offenses is to have it known and clearly understood that the offenders will be quickly apprehended, speedily tried and most certainly properly punished."

Herring Tempers Praise

In like vein was the statement issued by Senator Herring (Democrat), of Iowa, Miss Strieff's home State, who had criticized police delay in solving the crime.

"The apprehension of a man who confessed to the murder of Betty Strieff is gratifying, and I congratulate Superintendent Kelly," said the Senator.

"However, it must be recognized that the manner in which this vicious character was run to earth demonstrates conclusively the need for complete reorganization along the lines outlined in the bill which I introduced in Congress.

"This bill brings into the law enforcement staff of the District all resources of the FBI, the organization which has so successfully reduced to the vanishing point crimes for whose solution it is responsible throughout the Nation."

Senator Herring asserted that "seven or eight lives" would have been saved if "this criminal had been ferreted out and punished after the commission of his first crime."

Outside Help Broke Case

"A further proof of the necessity for a different handling of the crime problem in the District," he continued, "is found in the fact that this man has lived right here in Washington within a few blocks of the scenes of his crimes and yet it remained for the New York police force to find him and bring about his arrest and confession."

Catoe's address since Tuesday has been a rooming house at 1704 Swann Street, into which he moved with a woman presumed to be his wife. Previously he had lived in a rooming house in the 1700 block of U Street Northwest (1730).

Near Crime Sce

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Each address is only a few blocks from the apartment house at 1901 Sixteenth Street Northwest where Mrs. Abramowitz, a recent bride, was attacked and murdered on March 8.

Also within short walking distance is the garage in 1500 block of S Street, where Catoe says he raped and strangled Miss Strieff, and the garage in the 1700 block of Q Street where he deposited her unclothed body after driving it there in his sedan.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

SEX KILLER ADMITS SLAYING FOR WHICH ANOTHER DOES TIME

Washington, D. C., Sept. 1 (AP).—Jarvis Catoe, 36 year olds Negro and confessed sex slayer of Betty Strieff and six other women, has admitted one killing for which another man already has served five years of a life sentence, police said today.

James M. Smith, 41, Negro, was convicted in 1935 of raping and strangling Florence Daney, 65, Negro. Police said Catoe now had confessed this crime in such detail that they were satisfied Smith is innocent.

An inquest will be reopened tomorrow in connection with the killing of Miss Strieff, a war department stenographer, after which the case will be sent to a grand jury.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

OTHER CITIES CHECK SEX MURDERER'S PAST

AUG 31 1941

Try To Connect Him With Crimes In Many Towns

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30.—(AP)—Police of numerous cities besieged Washington officials Saturday for information whether unsolved sex crimes in their localities could be attributed to Jarvis R. Catoe, 36-year-old negro and confessed sex-murderer of 10 women.

AUG 31 1941

Police here prepared photographs and fingerprints of Catoe to broadcast to law enforcement agencies the country over and moved swiftly to bring him to trial.

On Tuesday an adjourned coroner's jury will be reassembled to conclude its deliberations in the case of Jessie Elizabeth Strieff, pretty young Government clerk, who was assaulted and strangled on a rainy Sunday afternoon last June. Catoe has admitted the crime.

The Strieff case was chosen in preference to some 13 others on which Catoe could be brought to trial, seven of them involving assault and murder, four assault, and the remainder attempted assault.

AUG 31 1941

The death of Miss Strieff aroused intense criticism of the Washington Police Department. Critics point out Catoe was captured as the result of the work of New York detectives.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Crime, Police And The Press

One of the worst tragedies that Washington has on record is the Catoe case. The blame must be put to the Washington Police Department. In the beginning, according to Catoe's confession, he killed only members of his own race. And while this was going on the police did not make much of an effort to apprehend him. Catoe would read a paper in which rooms were advertised for rent and then by going to a house as if to rent a room, and upon finding his victim alone, he would attack her. All the police had to do was to spread a drag net by placing a policeman at each house that had a room ad and wait for their man. They would have caught him before he killed seven colored people, and he would have been brought to justice and those other people would still be here. But because of their unconcern when he was killing his colored victims, he remained at large. Then he started killing white women. Then the police department went to work. Let us note the methods they used. They rounded up anyone whom they thought looked suspicious and brought him in for questioning. They took the victims riding in police scout cars to see if they could pick up any suspects. Here in Washington we have many colored police. But the part the colored police has to play is a minor part, and this type of case is not assigned to him.

Here is a suggestion to the police department: First, add to the force 100 additional police, 50 of them white and 50 colored. Give the colored police scout cars to patrol the colored districts and the white the white districts. Give the colored police a chance to solve crimes among their own race. Where all colored persons are involved, let the colored police handle the case, or when white attacks colored, let the colored officers have this case. When all whites are concerned, let the white police have this case, or when colored are involved against white let the white police have this case. By so doing the police will get their men.

H. A. M.

Washington, Sept. 1.

When the Strieff slayer was raping and killing Negro women, there was very little news in the papers about it, and I doubt if the police department was very much concerned either.

The fact that the law wasn't concerned, and the press didn't give these crimes much publicity (which might have been a warning to other women), no doubt encouraged the beast, Catoe, to go on raping and killing until he finally ended up

This case should be a lesson to the police department and to the press.

Perhaps the white women would have been spared if the law and the press had been more concerned about the four Negro women raped and murdered.

RUDOLPH RAYFORD

Washington, Aug. 29.

The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

Jarvis Roosevelt Catoe, the Negro beast, who outraged and killed, so he says, ten women, white and black! Just as the news flashed we were preparing to abuse the whole white race, because of the white rapist and killer of several women a few weeks ago! Somehow, some men always seem to break records of the wrong kind. Now, twelve million of us will have to bear the burden of that one fiend in human form! Sane or insane, death is far too good for him and all others of his kind, regardless of race, creed, previous or present condition of servitude. Thank God, however, history shows so much of the demonism and diabolical deeds of whites, we can still "look them in the eye," though blushing over our last lamentable achievement.

Dabney

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Police Doubt Catoe's Story Of Slaying D. C. Woman in '35

Whether Jarvis Catoe, killer of six women, has exonerated another man by confessing the murder of a seventh remained in doubt last night.

Skeptical of Catoe's story, the police were nevertheless investigating. They believed it too soon to reach conclusions.

Mrs. Florence Dancy, 65, Negro, was found criminally attacked and slain in her home at 2139 L Street Northwest on April 12, 1935. James M. Smith, 39, Negro, was convicted on the testimony of three witnesses that he was the man seen going into Mrs. Dancy's house at the time. He is now serving life in Leavenworth Penitentiary.

Since his arrest, Smith has claimed he was innocent. At one time his protests that he was framed were so vigorous that he was sent to St. Elizabeths Hospital and remained two years before he was sent away as sane.

After admitting six other murders, Catoe said he killed a woman in this neighborhood around Christmas six years ago. Wrong about the date, Catoe correctly reconstructed the crime and described the plan of the house. The general pattern of the killing followed that of others admitted by Catoe in confessions which have been accepted without challenge.

Homicide Squad Chief Jeremiah Flaherty pointed out, however, that all the houses in that block have the same floor plans.

Acting District Attorney John W. Fihelly said no report on this case had been received from the police. Should it be established that Catoe is telling the truth, Smith would have no remedy at law, but could seek release by a Presidential pardon.

The court records indicated that Smith would have been in prison any way. When convicted of the murder he was under a five to seven year sentence for a previous criminal offense which would not be completed until November this year. Also, when he was sentenced for the more grave offenses, the Government dropped indictments charging him with bigamy, larceny and housebreaking.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

SEX CRIMES

THOSE WHO HAVE been following the censational news in connection with the sex murders of J. R. Catoe, of Washington, D. C., should remember that sex crimes are not peculiar to any racial group, even though Catoe happens to be of the Negro race. Catoe is reported to have confessed to seven murders committed between 1938 and 1941, including the killing of three white women. It is very likely that he will pay for his crimes with his own life in the electric chair.

Yet society, and especially the Washington Police Department, is partly to blame for his long career of crime. A known pervert who has served two terms for indecent exposure, the police instead of having Catoe placed in a hospital for the insane used him as a "stool pigeon" against other Negroes and practically gave him the freedom of the city. It was only through the alertness of the New York police that he was finally apprehended.

In our opinion, persons like Catoe should be confined in an asylum at the first signs of abnormality. Sex perverts are a menace to society.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Calvin's Digest

Catoe Is Crazy

AT THE VERY moment when most of us were cursing prejudiced minds for laying the Washington, D C., sex crimes at the door of a Negro, a colored handyman named Jarvis Roosevelt Catoe was arrested and confessed to sex murders of seven or more white and colored women of New York and Washington. He told the police that a criminal urge seized him "like a fever." A psychiatrist said that Catoe was undoubtedly abnormal, probably insane.

It was a terrific let-down for Negroes, especially in the South where the innocent have so often been the victim of mob madness. Police from several states flocked to Washington to question Catoe concerning similar unsolved crimes in their localities.

Considering the temper of the Washington police, who had met with several criticism and a shake-up before "the crime wave" was solved, it is surprising that there is anything left of the prisoner to be placed on trial. We are also glad that there were no mob scenes or reprisals in Washington or elsewhere when the case "broke."

We are all wondering when will enlightment overtake and replace the American white man's fetish of blaming a whole race for the sins of a few. But this injustice has caused the whites to make us as a race their superiors in personal conduct and restraint.

THE FERRIS STRIVING

"The bliss of dying without regret," say the Trappist monks, "is well worth the pain of living without contentment."

At 67, contentment was impossible for the brilliant Prof. William H. Ferris because of the thorny struggle to live, and the bitterness of unfulfilled desires denied him the bliss of dying without regret. When heart failure caused the lonely death of this early son of Yale and Harvard, the race lost still another champion for Negro self-determination, Black Nationhood, "Africa for the Africans."

As a preacher, teacher, lecturer, writer and editor, and lately identified with the Ethiopian World Federation movement, Prof. Ferris labored long and tirelessly at the heart of Negro aspirations. Altho a native of New Haven, Conn., he was at on time prominent in the turmoil of te Garvey movment, prior to which time he had published "The African Home and Abroad" in two volumns.

I have faith that in the New Day of Peace to follow the dark days of the present world chaos, men like Prof. Ferris should be able to live in contentment, creatively and productively, and attain the bliss of dying without regret.

Washington Post
Washington, D; C.

Suspect's Statement Admitting Attack on Girl Is Read to Jury

OCT 8 1941

The statement of Roland J. Lindsey, 19, Negro, that he ravished an 18-year-old girl after bludgeoning her soldier sweetheart was read yesterday to 12 jurors who have the power to send him to the electric chair.

Justice Jesse C. Adkins, of the District Court, permitted the confession to be heard over the protest of Defense Counsel James G. Tyson and Richard R. Atkinson. They claimed the police beat Lindsey.

The prisoner took the witness stand to charge that two detectives held his hands and slugged him in the Twelfth Precinct Station. Detective Sergts. Edgar Scott and Louis M. Wilson told the court that nothing of the sort happened, that Lindsey talked willingly.

The victim and her sweetheart, who suffered permanent head injuries when he was beaten with a rock and his throat cut, told yesterday how the man crept up on them in the Patterson Woods on July 19, claimed he was a guard and asked for $5. The girl said that after her escort was beaten unconscious she tried to flee, but Lindsey dragged her down and ravished her.

Dr. Paul T. Powell, Gallinger Hospital, corroborated the girl's story. Over defense protest that he was not an expert, Dr. Powell described the examination he made shortly after the assault.

"Her dress and body had dirt, mud and blood ground into them in various places," said Dr. Powell, "and she had numerous abrasions on her arms and lower extremities."

District Attorney Edward M. Curran and Assistant District Attorney Dennis McCarthy expect to close the prosecution case today.

Washington Post
Washington, D; C.

Jury Dooms Catoe; Out 18 Minutes

Sex Killer Accepts Verdict Stolidly, Tells His Counsel It's 'Some Break!'

By Robert R. Rand
Post Staff Writer

After being out only 18 minutes yesterday afternoon, a jury of 11 men and 1 woman found Jarvis Theodore Roosevelt Catoe guilty in the first degree of the murder and rape of Mrs. Rose Abramowitz, one of seven women whom the 36-year-old Negro had confessed slaying.

The verdict, read to the court by the jury's foreman, Melvin H. Mandell, 4707 Connecticut Avenue, carries a mandatory death sentence on the first count of the indictment.

Catoe was charged on three separate counts: murder in the perpetration of a rape, premeditated murder, and rape. Justice James W. Morris directed the jurors to find the defendant not guilty on the second count. On the third count, he told them that they could find the defendant not guilty, guilty, or guilty with recommendation of the death penalty.

Killer Takes Fate Calmly

Catoe was expressionless as he faced the jury box and heard his fate pronounced. He was immediately led from the courtroom by bailiffs, and as he passed through the door, he smiled weakly, and muttered to his attorneys, "Some break."

The three-man defense counsel, Walter M. Shea, J. Robert Esher and George Boden, said tehy would move for a new trial. Three days are given in which to file a motion for a new trial, and five days from the date of judgment to file notice of an appeal. Catoe will probably be sentenced next week.

Barney N. Abramowitz, whose bride of a month, was raped and strangled March 8 in their Sixteenth Street apartment, sat quietly in court as the verdict was read.

The jurors filed out of the courtroom at 2:58 p. m. and returned at 3:16 p. m. Abramowitz remained in his seat near the front of the court while they were out.

When the foreman made his announcement, the husband said to a companion, "Thank God, it's over. Justice has been done, but if only there were some way to stop these terrible crimes before they happen."

He then approached United States Attorney Edward M. Curran and Assistant United States Attorney John W. Fihelly, who conducted the prosecution. "Thank you for everything," he told them quietly.

After hestitating a moment, Abramowitz walked over to Catoe's attorneys, conversed for a moment, and shook their hands. He expressed his gratitude to each of the jurors before leaving the courtroom.

Following the verdict, Catoe was taken to the District Jail, joining six other men sentenced to die in the electric chair. They are Guy Ogden, whose motion for a new trial is now under consideration; John E. Eklund, sniper killer; and James R. McKenzie, Roland J. Lindsey, Vernon Williams and William I. Robinson, convicted of rape.

Trial Lasted Nine Days

Catoe's conviction yesterday concluded a nine-day trial, the first one on ten indictments of murder and rape against the defendant.

Since October 15, when the trial opened, the jury, and a thirteenth alternate juror, have been sequestered. They have been living at the Hotel Continental, guarded by three United States marshals, and have not been permitted to read any newspapers or magazines, or to communicate with their families or friends.

After their dismissal by Justice Morris yesterday, the jurors held a crowded reunion with their families in the courtroom.

In closing arguments Attorneys Curran and Fihelly, representing the Government, both addressed the jury.

Pointing at Catoe, Attorney Curran asserted that "this courtroom has been besmirched and bedraggled by the most amazing carnival of untruths ever foisted on an American jury. Would you put your credence into the testimony of one of the worst killers ever to grace the annals of this community?"

To the jurors, he shouted, "I represent you, and you, and you. As your district attorney, I ask you to find a verdict of murder in the first degree with the death penalty."

Attorney Fihelly told the jurors: "Society looks to you for our protection. Let it be known far and wide," he begged, "that rape and murder will not be tolerated. In the name of justice, in the name of Rose Abramowitz, and the women of this community. I ask you to give this killer what he deserves, the death penalty."

Defense Counsel Walter M. Shea, again charging that Catoe confessed only after being "tortured" by police, asked: "Why did they take him to a doctor a few days after he was arrested? Was it because he was so well and felt so good?

"No, policemen don't hit prisoners," Shea continued. "They don't threaten them, either. They just carry blackjacks for the sake of carrying them.

"There is no doubt," said Shea, "that this is a terrible crime with which the defendant is charged. It is a crime which every intelligent citizen regrets. But this defendant is not guilty."

37L-1941

FLORIDA

6747

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

WHITE 'HOBO' GIRLS CLAIM ASSAULTS BY FOUR RACE YOUTHS

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., June 26—What may be a repetition of the infamous Scottsboro case was enacted here last week when police officers and sheriff's deputies combed the colored section of Jacksonville in search for four alleged suspects on a supposed charge of having criminally assaulted two young "hobo" white girls.

A host of suspects have been arrested on suspicion of being involved in the case. At press time no definite charges had been placed against any of the men now in jail. Police would only reveal that they are continuing the investigation.

The girls, 13 and 15, told officers they came from Chattanooga to Jacksonville on the back of a truck. They arrived in the city Tuesday night intending to visit an aunt. On leaving the truck at State and Main streets, they went east State to Cleveland where they were approached by two Negroes who said they would direct them to the part of the city where the relative lived.

POLICE PROCEED WITH CAUTION

Instead, the girls said, they were led to Madison street west of Brewster hospital where the attack occurred after they had been joined by two other men. The time of the assault was placed as 1 a.m., and the girls said they were held down and repeatedly attacked.

State Attorney William A. Hallowes stated they were proceeding "very carefully" in tracing down the girls' tale in order that no mistake might be made in identifying the "guilty" ones.

37L-1941

GEORGIA

6748

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Special Trial Set for Negro

EASTMAN, Ga., June 2 [AP]—Another chapter in Dodge county's sensational "near lynching case" will be written on Saturday, Aug. 9, when a special term of Dodge superior court will convene to try Eddie Lee Spivey, 21-year-old Negro, on charges of criminally assaulting a 65-year-old white farm woman.

The spotlight of national attention was thrown on the case shortly after Spivey's arrest when a mob of more than 700 persons dragged him from the county jail, "tried" him in the light of blazing bonfires and returned him to jail "for want of enough evidence to lynch him."

Judge Eschol Graham, McRae, presiding jurist of the Oconee judicial circuit, called the special court term today.

Judge Graham also issued an order to Sheriff J. Charlton Lewis for Spivey's transfer to the Bibb county jail in Macon for incarceration until his return is ordered. The sheriff said Spivey was carried to Macon Wednesday night.

JUN 3 1941

6749

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Rape Suspect Arrested; Victim Critically Injured

APR 14 1941

A woman who was assaulted and raped by a Negro Saturday night was reported to be in serious condition in county hospital yesterday. West North avenue police arrested Ivory Pitts, 29 years old, colored, near the scene of the attack, which occurred in the rear of 401 North Leavitt street. Physicians said the woman had been knocked unconscious before she was raped.

APR 14 1941

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

HUNT 3 NEGROES WHO RAPED GIRL, BEAT HER ESCORT

Hyde Park police yesterday were searching for three Negroes who early in the day raped a high school girl, 16 years old, after slugging and kicking her escort, Ben Russell, 17, a clerk of 4249 Drexel boulevard.

The Negroes stopped the couple as they were walking in Bu[illegible] park near 43d street and the lake. One of them threatened the girl with a knife while the other two knocked Russell down, kicked him until he no longer resisted, then took his shoes, watch, and $15 and chased him away. The three raped the girl and left her lying semiconscious in the park. Police took her and Russell to the Chicago hospital, where the two received emergency treatment before being removed to their homes.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Seek Youths Accused Of Girl's Attack

Fourth district police were this week hunting three youths who are charged with attacking a 14-year-old girl in a playground at Thirty-third and LaSalle street.

According to a complaint filed with authorities by the victim's parents, the girl was lured into the playground, May 13, [illegible] and attacked after one of the youths threatened her with a pocket knife.

Archie Burgess, of 3149 South Parkway, was taken into police custody the past week after parents of a 13-year-old school girl charged him with luring the girl to his room and attacking her on May 11.

MAY 31 1941

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

3 Young Negroes Held as Rapists and Robbers

Three young Negroes, identified as having raped a girl 14 years old and severely beaten her escort and another couple, were held by the grand jury in bonds totaling $23,000 yesterday by Judge Lambert K. Hayes in Boys' court. The prisoners are Orange Bryant, 20 years old, 4225 South Parkway; Henry Hawkins, 18, of 3441 Calumet avenue, and Andrew Lake, 21, of 4148 Calumet avenue. Charges of rape, robbery, and assault were lodged against each.

JUN 6 1941

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

WOMAN NAMES YOUNG SUSPECT AS HER ATTACKER

Thomas Van Gue, 18 years old, a Negro, was arrested yesterday by Sergt. James Maloney of the Austin station for questioning. Van Gue was identified by Mrs. Bobbie Haas, 38 years old, as the man who entered her apartment at 165 Pine avenue Friday night, struck her, and raped 20 feet to the ground after she threw a small table at him. Mrs. Haas is partially paralyzed. Van Gue, who lives at 2966 South La Salle street, was arrested at 3255 Wentworth avenue, home of a relative. He was traced thru a hat and grocery delivery book dropped in the Haas home. He told Sergt. Maloney that he lost his job Friday, drank some wine, and that's all he remembers.

JUL 7 1941

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Young Wife Identifies Negro Who Raped Her

AUG 16 1941

Chester Calloway, 32 years old, colored, was identified yesterday by a young married woman as the Negro who raped her July 7 after threatening to kill her. She said Calloway forced her into an alley near her home on the west side. Calloway also has been accused of robbing a score of cleaning establishments. He is held at the Warren avenue police station.

AUG 16 1941

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

WOMAN KILLS MAN WHO TRIES TO ATTACK HER

When he allegedly attempted to force his way into the apartment of Mrs. Fannie Pharms, 4914 So. Parkway early last Thursday morning, a man later identified by Bureau of Identification records as [illegible] Washington, 4155 Federal street was shot by the woman and instantly killed.

The presence of Washington on one of the rear porches of the building which Mrs. Pharms owns was noticed by a tenant, Mrs. Julia Bailey. Mrs. Bailey told police she had been out with her dog and was coming in when she saw a man peering into one of the apartment windows.

"I called to him, thinking he was the janitor," Mrs. Bailey stated. "When I received no response I went to Mrs. Pharms' apartment and told her about it."

Mrs. Pharms said she got a gun and opened the door. "When I did I saw a man standing there and asked him what he wanted."

He cursed at me and attempted to force his way in by me. I fired once. The bullet struck Washington in the head. He ran outside collapsing on the sidewalk in front of the building, where he died before police could be notified.

AUG 3 1941

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

QUIZ ACCUSED NEGRO RAPIST ON OTHER CRIMES

DEC 26 1941

A negro held on charges of raping and robbing a young woman was being questioned yesterday by Woodlawn police as a suspect in other crimes.

William Jones, 24, of 6729 Evans avenue, was arrested earlier in the day when he returned to the woman's car which he had abandoned at 85th street and Calumet avenue. The attack, according to the victim, occurred at 84th street and Vernon avenue where he had forced her to drive the car.

In Jones' pocket police found $75 and a watch taken from the woman. Police said she identified him and he admitted the attack.

DEC 26 19[illegible]

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Woman's Screams Bring Aid

Suspect in Maryland Attack Soon Trapped by State Police

As Washington police pressed their search for the slayer of Jessie Elizabeth Strieff, 23-year-old War Department clerk, Maryland State police captured a colored man accused of severely beating a pretty, 31-year-old Hyattsville woman after breaking into her home at 107 Rushe Road yesterday.

Mrs. Ruth A. Nagers, Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Co. employe, said the attack occurred at 11:45 a. m. when she returned from a grocery store, to be confronted by a colored man when she opened the front door. At the time she was attired in a play suit similar to that worn by Miss Strieff on her fatal trip to a delicatessen last Sunday.



MRS. A. H. NAGERS

"The man, without saying a word, hit me in the face with his fist and tried to strike me with a hammer he held in his other hand. I struggled with him and managed to take hold of the hammer," Mrs. Nagers declared.

"When I fell to the floor he kicked me in the head," said the woman, who bore a deep scar on her nose and discolored eyes as well as numerous abrasions on her arms.

Still battling, Mrs. Nagers rolled out through the open front door on the front porch. There her screams attracted neighbors who called police.

Police surrounded the house and State Policeman B. J. Nolan captured a man attempting to flee through nearby woods.

His name was given as Frank Jones, 34, of 2251 Twelfth Street Northwest, Washington.

Meanwhile, metropolitan detectives, Sergt. John Wise and Detective Fred Rawlinson, members of the supersquad investigating the Strieff case, hurried to Hyattsville to determine if Jones had any connection with the Strieff case.

After questioning the man, in a hearing also attended by Hyattsville Police Chief James Hepburn and Maryland State officers, Wise said preliminary questioning indicated Jones had no connection with the local crime.

A search of the Twelfth Street address, in which Wise, Rawlinson and Hepburn took part, produced more than $1,000 worth of property ranging from jewelry to women's underclothing. None of the latter, it was said, was that of Miss Streiff.

Chief Hepburn said he believed property found in the man's home had been stolen from homes in nearby Virginia and the District as well as in Maryland.

Among the man's possessions was an address book containing a number of names and addresses in Northwest Washington, fairly close to the alley behind Seventeenth Street near Q where Miss Strieff's body was found.

Police also planned to investigate an alibi offered by the man as to his whereabouts Sunday afternoon when the slain girl disappeared.

371-1941

MISSISSIPPI

6751

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

STUDENT RELEASED ON ATTACK CHARGES

MAR 1 1941

WEST POINT, Miss., Feb. 27—Robert Lee Burns, local student arrested on a charge of robbing and criminally assaulting a white waitress, has been released by authorities here, despite the fact that bloodhounds used in the search for the assailant, followed a trail that led to the front door of his home.

The release of Burns followed announcement by District Attorney L. W. Brown, that in the presence of witnesses, Matthew Douglas, farm laborer from an adjoining county, had confessed to the crime shortly after being taken into custody, and that Douglas had been removed for safekeeping to a jail in another part of the state.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

POLICE PUSH HUNT IN ATTACK SLAYING

MAR 8 1941

MERIDIAN, Miss., March 7—(AP)—With the death here Friday of Mrs. Mamie Randall, 31, police intensified search for a man identified as a Negro who beat, robbed, stabbed and attempted to assault her Wednesday night.

Mrs. Randall, wife of E. L. Randall, was in a semi-conscious state when rescuers, attracted by her screams, drove off the assailant and rushed her to a hospital. She was stabbed six times in the temple, and once in the eye.

She was attacked as she walked alone on a lonely street. Her husband and an 8-year-old son survi-

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

Girls Accuse Ministers Of Road Assault

SEP 13 1941

CLEVELAND, Miss., Sept. 11—(ANP)—In a letter to the Delta Leader, two girls made public their accusations against the Rev. W. M. Mently of Greenville, Miss., a student of Greenville Industrial college, and a Rev. Watkins, who allegedly sought to rape them after having taken them to a Sunday School convention at the St. Paul Baptist church in Greenville.

Acording to their story, Rev. Mently had called upon Mrs. Mattie Johnson, mother of Polly Johnson, and asked permission to take her to the convention. A friend, Lucille Jackson was invited to accompany the two. After enjoying a pleasant afternoon, a Rev. Watkins joined the party and they began the return trip to Cleveland.

It is said that Rev. Watkins changed clothes, bought some liquor, and had Rev. Mently stop on the road between Greenville and Leland where they tried to persuade the girls to drink some liquor. Upon their refusal, the two men attempted to rape them. One of them was struck on the head and kicked into a ditch while the other was pinned down in the car by one of the men sitting on her chest.

SEP 13 1941

Managing to free themselves the girls walked four miles to Leland where a man, enroute to Memphis, paid their fares home when he learned of what they had been through.

It was learned that Watkins and Mently are not actively engaged in the ministry and therefore do not represent the ministers. The two girls are active church workers.

NEGRO YOUTH SOUGHT FOR KEMPER ATTACK

Young White Girl Assaulted Near Dekalb

MERIDIAN, Miss., Sept. 10.—Brother Walker, 17-year-old negro was being sought by Kemper County authorities Wednesday on a charge of criminally assaulting a 15-year-old white girl near DeKalb. It is feared that mob violence will result if the suspect is captured.

Jim Hinkins' bloodhounds were sent from Meridian to Kemper County to aid in the search.

The victim and her younger brother and sister were walking through a wooded pasture, a quarter of a mile from the home, when the attack occurred.

Walker, reports said, had ridden to a point near the pasture in an automobile with another negro. Officers said Walker dragged the girl into a thicket. The other children ran screaming to their home and notified their parents.

The trail followed by the bloodhounds led to a main road near the pasture, where Walker was believed to have entered an automoblie.

Walker's name was mentioned two years ago in connection with a statutory offense involving a small negro girl.

SEP 14 1941

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

GIRLS ACCUSE MINISTERS OF RAPE IN MISS.

SEP 14 1941

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SEP 14 1941

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It was learned that Watkins and Mently are not actively engaged in the ministry and therefore do not represent the ministers who are.

The two girls are active church members. Mrs. Johnson, a dress maker, is an invalid suffering from infantile paralysis.

37 L 1941

MISSOURI

6752

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

WOMAN CHARGES ASSAULT; MAN HELD

APR 26 1941

APR 26 1941

ST. LOUIS, April 24—Claiming that he is entirely innocent of the charges and that what he did was at her request, Richard Brown, 1206a Missouri avenue, is being held as a suspected rapist following the filing of a complaint Friday, April 18, by Miss Lucille McLendon, 22-year-old dumb woman residing with her mother, Mrs. Florence McLendon, at 3030a Lucas avenue, just a few doors from the Ninth District police station.

The young woman's mother told officers that about noon that day, she had received a note from her daughter telling her just what had happened. Immediately police were contacted and the young woman taken to Homer Phillips hospital where an investigation revealed the situation to ha[illegible] as set forth in the note.

APR 28 1941

Miss McClendon claims that the young man crawled through an open kitchen window of her home that day and, after beating her and twisting her wrist, forced her to comply with his demands.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Identification Faulty, Rape Charge Flops In New England

SEP 27 1941

BETHLEHEM, N. H.—Successfully for the accused, charges of rape against Ted Pitman, hotel worker in a White Mountains hotel near here, were dismissed when the grand jury found "no bill" in his case last week. Pitman was accused of attacking a young white girl August 8, on the basis of her identification.

The facts, brought out by Mack M. Mussman, Pitman's attorney, showed that the girl was uncertain about the identity of her assailant, stating only that he was colored. She at first thought that five different men who were brought before her were guilty, but on proof that they were not at the scene, changed her mind.

When Pitman was brought before her she was unable to identify him, but when he was asked to speak certain words, she claimed he was the attacker. It was established by Pitman's story and that of six witnesses that he was never near the scene of the assault.

371-1941

NEW JERSEY

6754

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

ABSOLVED IN "DUCK ISLAND" MURDERS AFTER GRILLING; "NEGRO" THEORY DISCOUNTED

MAR 5 - 1941

TRENTON, N. J.—(SNS)—Paul Higginbotham, 48, of Ewing Township, was held in the county jail today pending grand jury action on charges of criminally assaulting a 21-year-old white girl.

Investigators of the Duck Island and Cypress Lane petter murders grilled Higginbotham after his arrest Friday afternoon, but apparently have absolved him of any connection with the six dual killings.

MAR 5 - 1941

Higginbotham, according to Ewing Township police, entered a cleaning and dying establishment at Summit and Pennington Avenues Friday afternoon and found a girl clerk alone in the place. He beat and criminally assaulted her, police said. The girl ran to a nearby store and an alarm brought Captain Clarence Morris. The officer found Higginbotham hiding in a shack.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Hold Ft. Dix Soldiers On Rape Charge

AUG 25 1941

MOUNT HOLLY, N. J.—Two soldiers from Fort Dix, N. J., were held in Burlington county jail here on charges of attacking a white girl, Monday night, Aug. 11, after threatening her escort with death.

The soldiers, Privates Hinton Johnson and Joseph Washington, of the 226th Quartermaster company, were ordered held without bail for action by the county grand jury after a brief arraignment before Recorder Wilbur Lippincott.

According to the evidence, Private Ralph Parsons, white, of company B, 174th Infantry, and the girl whose name has not yet been disclosed, were driving on Cranberry Hill road when their car ran into a ditch. Parsons, according to statements, walked to a nearby tavern and [illegible] for help. He returned to the car with Johnson and Washington and Corp. George Wilmer, of 122nd Quartermaster regiment.

It is charged that Johnson and Washington knocked out Wilmer, struck Parsons, and told him and the girl that resistance would mean death. It was further charged that Johnson and Washington took turns guarding Parsons while the girl was attacked.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

White Girl Runaway, 15, Accuses N.C. "Teacher"

ATLANTIC CITY.—Accused by a 15-year-old white girl whom police picked up on a runaway charge, Lionel Sabourin, 24, said to be a Greensboro. N.C., school teacher, was held without bail for grand jury action, last week, charged with criminal assault.

The girl, Betty Warriner, who disappeared several days previously after leaving work at a boardwalk ten-cent store with another girl and two white men, was taken into custody when found sleeping on a porch on Virginia Avenue.

"Stayed Out Too Late"

She told police that, afraid to go home after staying out so late, she wondered into a Virginia Avenue sandwich shop and accepted the offer of a man, identified as Sabourin, to find her a place to stay.

She took detectives to a room on Maryland Avenue where she said Sabourin took her and assaulted her.

Sabourin, meanwhile, had returned to Greensboro, but when informed that Atlantic City police were looking for him, came back voluntarily and went to the office of Harold Wertheimer, who notified police. The girl identified him in a police lineup.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Police Orders All Males In Trenton To Report To Courthouse

MAR 6 1941

TRENTON, N. J.—Just because a white woman said something about a "dark man" just before she died, all colored males in this city were ordered by Prosecutor Dutch this week to have their fingerprints taken.

The cause for the sudden fingerprinting was the result of three mysterious "lover's lane" murders of white couples near the desolate Duck Island in the Delaware River.

While all colored Trenton became aroused and angered over Dutch's action in mailing out postal cards ordering colored males to report for questioning at Room 302 in the Court House, an investigation of the Duck Island murders from 1938 to date reveals the colored suspect angle was injected into the case by the slimmest of clues.

First Victim In 1938

The first victims slain were Mary Myatovich and V. Tansello who were killed the night of November 9, 1938, by the still unidentified madman killer.

MAR 6 1941

Mary did not die at once from the gunshot wounds. During her days of raving she happened to say something about a "dark man." It is on this slim and questionable clue that Negroes are being herded together for mass fingerprinting.

Six Murders in All

Two other murders took place on October 2, 1939, and on November 17, 1940. The bodies of two more victims were found shot to death. The "colored angle" of the killings was then recalled again as Trentonians demanded the police to solve these growing murders.

In the last two weeks as pressure grew heavier on the prosecutor's office to do something about the murders the cards began arriving at the home of prominent civic leaders as well as lesser knowns. Only a few selected individuals whose political power is feared have been excepted by the prosecutor.

6755

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

ape-Robbery Killing Here In 1939 Believed ived With Arrest Of Man In Baltimore. Md.

FEB 8 1941

The suspected perpetrator of ...e of 1939's most horrible mur..., publicized by screaming ...lines in the weekly papers, ... brought back to New York ... week to answer murder ... Identified through fin... pictures, 250-pound Geo. ...kins, 31, of 948 West Frank... Street, Baltimore, Md., en... on Tuesday for New York ...cuffed to 170-pound Detect... Prinz of the 32nd Squad.

Evidence placed Watkins alias ... George" (George) Wilson, ... Nowell and "King Kong," ... the scene of the crime on Sat... afternon, January 21, 1939, ... Eighth avenue when an ...tive 20-year-old wife and ... was found raped, stabbed ... strangled on her bed. The ... York Age recorded, two ... ago, "A piece of rope had ... tied around the young wo...'s wrists but had been brok... in the struggle as the murder... choked out her life with his ... hands, police believe." And ... twenty-four hours after ... Age appeared on the street ... the account Watkins is ... to have quit the city.

The woman's body was found ... her sister who had come to ... her prepare for the family ... dinner scheduled for the ...owing day. The victim's two-...-old son, Ronnie, was crying ... his crib and the house was ...pletely upset showing signs ... struggle with a burg...

...emptied out onto the floor ... the living room, indicating ...bery. It is believed that some... known to the victim, Mrs. ...garet Quarles, committed the ...

Watkins, it is said, had known ... Quarles' husband, William, ...tsburgh and had befriended ... suspect when he brushed ... the law over a stolen car. ... is said to have jumped ... and gone on to Pitcairn, ... he was arrested for ... But it was at his home city in Baltimore to which he had fled following the murder here in New York, that he was arrested on another sex charge involving a ten-year old boy and fingerprints taken on that occasion tied him to the two-year-old murder.

FEB 8 1941

On the train back, Watkins allegedly told the detective, "I could have gotten away from you," and the detective, probably realizing the difference in their weight, rejoined, "You mean you would have been as full of holes as Swiss cheese."

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Rapist Held in New York

MAR 15 1941

WASHINGTON

Local homicide detectives, working through last night and into the early hours of the morning, were trying today (Thursday) to link George Cvek, 23-year-old confessed slayer of a New York white woman, with the sex murders of two Washington women last fall.

Cvek, a swarthy-complexioned, well-built man, with a cultured bearing that was disarming to his victims, was taken into custody in New York Tuesday, following an attack upon Mrs. Joseph Franco.

37L

Cvek was apprehended at the Mills Hotel for Men, where he followed his alleged custom of applying for a room in a low-cost hotel near the scene of his latest crime. He is said to have confessed, under severe grilling, to fifteen sex crimes along the Eastern seabord, including the assault and murder of Mrs. Catherine Papas, in New York, last month.

Believing that the man may be the one they have sought in connection with simular crimes here, local police, under Inspector Bernard W. Thompson, immediately entered the case.

Because Pennsylvania State police are trying, at the same time, to link him with the year-old sex murder of a Pennsylvania State College co-ed, the Washington detectives were somewhat hampered in their investigation. No report was forthcoming, therefore, up to a late hour last night, as to the progress they have made in their probe.

MAR 15 1941

Used Clever Ruses

Cvek, New York officers state, followed the custom of gaining entrance to the homes of married women on the pretext of being friendly with their husbands. He posed as the mayor of Boys' Town on occasions. On other occasions, he pretended to be visiting the home to return a small loan with which he had been favored by the husband of his intended victim.

MAR 15 1941

In each case, police say, after gaining admission to the homes, Cvek overpowered, attacked and strangled his victims into unconsciousness. Only one known New York case, thus far, has resulted in a death, they assert.

Local Approach Varied

The Washington crimes were similar. However, the approach used by the man in the local sex-murders was slightly different. Although there was always the transient angle—his pretending to be seeking a room to rent on his visits to D.C. homes—the suave manner in which the attacker confidenced his intended victims was identical.

Duped into believing that he wanted to find a place to stay, Mrs. Mattie Steward, late last November, was attacked and killed by a man in her home at 1243 Swann Street, Northwest. Mrs. Lucy Kidwell, of 307 Virginia Avenue, Southeast, was likewise assaluted and slain in her home by a man who feigned a desire to find a room.

In both cases, neighbors say a man of swarthy complexion and stately bearing had been seen entering the homes of the victims just prior to the crimes.

Slayer Trapped by Watch

Evelyn Andersen's birthday on April 15 fell on a Tuesday this year and her husband, Erhardt, gets paid on Wednesdays, and that's why a ham-handed Negro is under arrest in Washington as her murderer.

Mrs. Anderson, 28, was found strangled on Aug. 4 on the sidewalk of Jerome Ave. near West Burnside Ave. in the Bronx after having been criminally assaulted. The Negro, Jarvis Roosevelt Catoe, 30, not only confessed attacking and murdering her, according to the report from Washington, but admitted slaying six other women in Washington and assaulting still another six.

In a little furnished room on the top floor of 55 W. 92nd St., Erhardt Andersen, the diminutive husband of the slain woman, sitting amid a score of knicknacks and dolls and pictnres that all were connected with his dead wife, told today how he gave the police the lead which eventually brought them to the guilty man in Washington.

It had to do with a wrist watch and a pawnshop and a birthday, and after Andersen, his voice choked with emotion, swore he would try to get a pass to see the Negro electrocuted, he put together the chain, link by link.

Incidents Leading to Arrest.

April 15, he repeated, was his wife's 26th birthday and he wanted dearly to buy her something. Neither he nor his wife made much money. Most of it was used up as fast as it came in, but he never forgot her birthdays.

He had a wristwatch. It was his own, a man's watch, that he often let his wife wear. This time he asked her to let him wear it, on this Tuesday, and as soon as she left the house to go to work as a waitress he hurried to a pawnshop.

He pawned the watch for a few dollars and then bought her a present—a fancy beach doll, covered with a gay dress, ruffled. He gave it to her that happy night, and then the next day, when he was paid, he went to the pawnshop and redeemed the watch, and then gave it back to her to wear.

Moved Because of Burglary

It was a trivial incident. Mrs. Andersen never even knew the watch had been pawned.

But then came that day of Aug. 4. The couple had moved from their old apartment at 17 W. 100th St. because of a minor burglary there.

"She kissed me before she went to work that day," Andersen said, looking at a picture of his wife. "She left at 6 o'clock, the morning she went to work in the restaurant, and I waited until 11 o'clock that night for her to come home and after waiting until that time I went to the neighbors and asked them if anyone saw her.

Speak as Though She Lives.

"They said, no, and I went to sleep, thinking she had decided to visit some friends and had stayed over. She frequently does that."

As Anderson spoke he lapsed unconsciously into the present tense. He kept speaking of his dead wife as though she were still alive, still doing the things he described.

"The next day I called the restaurant. They told me she hasn't come in to work yet. I called the union. I am a cake baker. I couldn't get anyone to work for me that day so I had to go to work.

Ring Confirmed Fears.

"Then I saw the papers, of the finding of the body. And it says that this woman is wearing an old country wedding band, it was like the one they make in Denmark and then I know that it is Evelyn."

He went to Fordham morgue and identified the body of his wife.

"She has made reservations for us to go on vacation," he said. "We were to leave two days afterward. A little farm in Connecticut, near Danbury."

How Suspect Was Traced.

The police then asked him what his wife was wearing when she left home and he told of a brooch, a cameo and the wrist watch. They asked him if by any chance he knew of the serial number of the watch and he said no, and then he remembered pawning the watch and told the police about it.

They went to the pawnshop and there obtained the serial number and with that as the sole clew they began to scour the pawnshops of the city. They traced the watch to a pawnshop in Harlem and learned that a Negro woman had pawned it there.

The detectives then went to the Negro woman and learned from her that the watch had been given to her by Catoe.

Postcard Gave Address.

She swore that she didn't know where Catoe was now—and the police thought they had come to a dead end. But then one day the woman received a postcard from Catoe bearing his Washington address. She turned the card over to the detectives.

Wednesday Detectives Andrew O'Connor of the Ryer Ave. station, the Bronx, and John Carroll of the Bronx homicide squad flew to Washington and arrested Catoe, turning him over to the Washington authorities.

AUG 2 9 1941

371-1941

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

NEW YORK

6756

AL DOUGLAS S ACCUSED

fendant, Well Known cal Sportsman, nies Charge

JAN 11 19

Walter Douglas, 37-year-old manager of the popular Hotel Douglas and a brother of the equally well known Al Douglas, was held in $2,500 bail this week following his appearance in Harlem Court for allegedly inducing a pretty chorus girl to become a prostitute.

The affable sportsman was arrested New Year's Eve night by Detective Charles Barts, who had been looking for him since last December 15 when Lillian Jones, 2040 Seventh Ave., was nabbed in a downtown hotel raid and charged with prostitution.

Magistrate Anna Kross, long a bitter foe of "romance for finance" girls and "pimps," ordered the high bail for Douglas. And the case will be heard later in Special Sessions.

At the time of his arrest, the accused hotel manager denied Miss Jones' complaint. "I've just returned from Detroit," he told Detective Barts, "and know nothing about the charges made by this young woman."

The 22-year-old chorus girl is expected to appear as a witness against him, however, when the case is called. She was arrested at the Manhattan Hotel on W. 49th street.

Assistants from District Attorney Dewey's office questioned her and the warrant for Douglas' arrest followed.

According to the story told police. Miss Jones "worked" a downtown hotel each night. She "earned" from $18 to $45, and gave it all to Douglas. "All I got out of it was a room and a coat which cost only $85," she was quoted as saying.

Police say Douglas maintains an elaborate apartment at 634 St. Nicholas Ave. It was also said that he is a manager of prize-fighters.

3-7
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Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Jailed Without Trial



SANDY FLETCHER, 22, of Durham, N.C., who has been held in jail without a hearing since October, 1940, accused of attempting to criminally assault a 6-year-old white girl the previous May. Solicitor W. H. Murdock has repeatedly delayed trial by contending that the accuser becomes hysterical upon sight of any colored person, thus defeating several motions for habeas corpus writs by C. J. Gates, defense attorney. Fletcher, never identified by the girl, is held under $2,000 bond.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Extradicted For Raping Woman

WASHINGTON.—(ANP)—William Wellman, 36, lost his fight last week to prevent his extradition to North Carolina to face a rape case charge when Judge Goldsboro ruled in favor of the State of North Carolina, in one of the most peculiar cases yet to come before the court. Wellman is held here under bond.

Charging that Wellman was guilty of raping a 67-year-old white woman in Statesville, N. C., on Feb. 11, Wellman was arrested here in April. Extradition was ordered a month later in the face of failure of the complaining witness and a colored maid who accompanied her to identify Wellman in police headquarters and in the face of a contractor's records that Wellman was working at Fort Belvoir the day it is alleged the crime was committed.

The case aroused the interest of the NAACP and they secured a writ of habeas corpus. In defiance of the writ, Sheriff John Moore took the man back to North Carolina.

Faced with a passible contempt citation, Sheriff Moore returned with Wellman for the habeas corpus hearing, bringing with state's representative from North Carolina.

Mrs. Cora B. Sowers, the alleged victim, now declares she readily recognized the man in the police lineup, but wouldn't say positively.

Sheriff Moore was excused for not returning Wellman here last week as ordered by the court and relieved of the $500 fine, which under the district law would have been turned over to Wellman, as a prisoner unlawfully held.

Judge Goldsborough ruled in favor of the State of North Carolina, although defense attorneys, headed by Thurman Dodson, noted an appeal in the case, which bids fair to become a national affair.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

DISMISS WRIT TO FREE MAN IN RAPE CASE

N.A.A.C.P. Appeals From D. C. Court Decision On Habeas Corpus Action

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The case of William Wellman, 36, laborer at Fort Belvoir, Va., and the father of four children, accused of a criminal assault on a 67-year-old North Carolina white woman, is well on its way toward being a cause celebre as N.A.A.C.P. counsel perfect an appeal from a decision discharging a writ of habeas corpus.

Though counsel from North Carolina won a victory when Justice T. A. Goldsborough in the district court discharged the writ, Wellman's attorneys, Dr. Leon A. Ransome, dean of the Howard University law school and Edgar Berger, won a partial victory when Wellman was ordered back to the district jail to await the appeal instead of being remanded to North Carolina.

Wellman is accused of assaulting Mrs. Cora B. Sowers, near Statesville, N. C., on February 11; he was arrested here in April.

Extradition was ordered a month later in the face of failure of the complaining witness and her maid to identify Wellman in a police lineup here and in the face of a contractor's records that he was working at Fort Belvoir on the day of the crime.

The N.A.A.C.P. became interested and obtained a habeas corpus writ. In defiance of the writ, Sheriff John Moore took Wellman back to Central prison, Raleigh, N. C. Faced with a possible contempt of court citation, Sheriff Moore returned with Wellman for the habeas corpus hearing.

Although Mrs. Sowers and her maid could not identify Wellman previously, their memories were freshened as the time elapsed and they pointed an accusing finger at the laborer during the hearing.

Justice Goldsborough excused Sheriff Moore for not returning Wellman from the North Carolina prison to a hearing previously scheduled. He also relieved him of the $500 fine which, under the District code, would have been turned over to Wellman as a prisoner unlawfully held.

Wellman's defense that he was working at Fort Belvoir at the time of the crime is not only supported by the contractor's records, but by the pay roll sheet and testimony of his landlady.

Attorneys Ransome and Berger have a little less than three months in which to perfect their appeal.

Mob Foiled in Attempt To Lynch Negro

By the Associated Press.

ROXBORO, N. C., Aug. 16.—Quiet descended on this town of 4,599 inhabitants today after a night in which a mob of 500 attempted unsuccessfully to get their hands on Cy Winstead, 22, Negro, charged with the rape of a white girl.

Until about 4 a. m. the mob pelted the Person County Jail while officers, hemmed up in a room in the jail, drove the men back at intervals with tear gas.

Sheriff M. T. Clayton after summoning aid from Durham police and the State Highway Patrol, managed to whisk Winstead to the State Prison in Raleigh. He said that as far as he could learn no one had been injured seriously. Six hours after the crowd began forming and the sheriff sent anew call for help to the highway patrol the siege began.

During the siege a group of Negro CCC boys, estimated at from 35 to 40, advanced from their camp on the edge of town toward the court house to aid Winstead. They were within 150 yards of the court house when shots from the crowd dispersed them.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Mob Threatens Rape Suspect

ROXBORO, N. C., [AP]—A determined little band of officers held a crowd of angry men at bay Saturday until a young Negro accused of rape was rushed unharmed to the state penitentiary at Raleigh, 55 miles away.

The men, some of whom were armed with guns, stones, bottles and sticks stormed the Person county jail, seeking Cy Winstead, 22-year-old Negro. Time and again they were driven back by tear gas.

Aid quickly came from the Durham police department and the state highway patrol. Sheriff M. T. Clayton then managed to get Winstead out of this town of 4,599 and took him to Raleigh.

Gov. J. M. Broughton said at Raleigh several hours later he had been informed a group of Negro CCC boys marched on the Person county courthouse, housing the jail, during the disorder. He said the CCC youths, from their camp on the outskirts of Roxboro, got within 150 yards of the jail when they were dispersed by shots fired by the men at the courthouse. He said he had asked the head of the CCC in Washington to make an immediate investigation.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
August 17, 1941

Prisoner Saved From North Carolina Mob

ROXBORO, N. C., Aug. 16.—(AP)—A determined little band of officers held a crowd of 500 angry men at bay today until a young negro accused of criminal attack was rushed unharmed to the state penitentiary at Raleigh, 55 miles away.

The men, some of whom were armed with guns, stones, bottles and sticks stormed the Person County jail, seeking Cy Winstead, 22-year-old negro. Time and again they were driven back by tear gas.

Aid quickly came from the Durham Police Department and the State Highway Patrol. Sheriff M. T. Clayton then managed to get Winstead out of this town of 4,599 and carried him to Raleigh.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
August 20, 1941

Tolerance Demanded

The story out of Camp Davis regarding the criminal assault charges against a Negro soldier who is alleged to have attacked a 15-year-old white girl, follows closely on the heels of the mob debacle at Roxboro where courageous action by officers of the law prevented a lynching.

Owing to the hectic and confused conditions now prevailing in the country, due to abnormal "crisis state" developments, the public may expect many criminal attempts of this nature.

The first step to be taken by society in the premises lies along preventive paths. Both civil and military authorities should do everything possible to prevent wrong conduct on the part of soldiers. Civilian delinquents and criminals also should be watched diligently. Every practical endeavor contributory to the elimination of those factors which contribute to sexual misbehavior and other crimes should be made unstintingly not only by duly constituted officials but also by all public-spirited private citizens. If liquors and wines are to be sold in the vicinity of army or Marine camps, the strictest sort of control should be exercised over such sales. Young people, whenever possible, should be kept out of "danger areas."

Having done its duty in this respect, the public should adopt the tolerant, law-abiding attitude. If horrible crimes are committed, the people should strive to remain calm and allow the forces of military or civil law and order to probe the cases, get at the facts and punish the guilty. By resorting to mob law, a bad situation is made all the worse, and interracial conflict may be encouraged thereby. It is well for all to remember that these are abnormal times, and that patriotism demands of American citizens that they carefully refrain from the commission of rash acts which may promote dissension and strife in the South during a critical moment in the history of the nation.

It is our duty to do everything we can to wipe out the causes of drunkenness and lasciviousness among soldiers and civilians and promote wholesome conduct among our own citizens and the multiplied thousands of young men of both races who have come and will be coming into the commonwealth from other sections for training during the defense emergency period. But, if in spite of these efforts, crime occurs, reason and the humane consideration insist that we leave always to the law the business of the law, and leave unstained our own hands.

This is the essence of justice, tolerance and democracy.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Civic Worker Accused by 4-Year-Old

PHILADELPHIA

Fred Johnson, 43, a well-known North Philadelphia civic worker, was held under $500 bail for a further hearing last week while police probed the morals charge placed against him by the mother of a 4-year-old girl.

The mother, Mrs. Virginia Armstead, of 1129 Master Street, reported the case to police Saturday, two days after she said her daughter complained of stomach pains and told of having been molested in a neighborhood store by Johnson.

Child in Hospital

Mrs. Armstead said she took the girl to St. Luke Hospital and then reported the case to police. Detectives at the Third division sent her to the House of Detention, and officials there told her to go to the Philadelphia General Hospital where the child is still detained. Police said she has contracted an infection.

Johnson Denies Story

According to the child's story, when she went to the store Johnson, who lives at 1419 N. Thirteenth Street, gave her a pickle and kept her there for about two hours. Her grandmother, Mrs. Eunice Miller, said she saw the girl leave the store about 11:30 p.m.

Johnson, who is identified with several civic clubs in the neighborhood, denied the accusations.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Motorist Rapes Woman After Offering To Take Her Home At Early Hour

A 28-year-old motorist was charged with rape by a South Philadelphia girl who claimed that he offered to drive her home and instead drove out to a deserted spot and attacked her after choking her into submission.

According to police, Herbert Chowning, of Haverford avenue near 53rd street, was charged with assault and battery, rape and violating the State Motor Code.

He was arrested after police traced the license numbers of his automobile which were written down by the woman after he had put her out of his car on Haverford avenue.

PICKED UP AT 2 A. M.

Police said that the woman, Anita Beverly, of Lombard street near 17th, claimed that she was waiting for a trolley car at 40th street and Lancaster avenue at 2 a. m. on last Saturday morning after leaving the home of a girl friend in the neighborhood.

She stated that Chowning drove along and called her and told her he was a friend of the girl she had left, giving the name of her friend, and offered to take her home.

Police said that she accepted the invitation and got into the car. She accused Chowning of driving to a deserted spot on the Cobbs Creek blvd. and stopping.

ACCUSED OF CHOKING

According to the woman, she tried to get out of the car and Chowning choked her into submission and then attacked her. Police said that after the assault the woman begged to be taken home and the man drove her to a spot on Lancaster avenue and put her out.

As he drove off she took down the number of his license plates and reported it to police, who traced the numbers and identified it as the property of Chowning.

Police said that Chowning had also failed to give his change of address after moving from the address on the license cards.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Walnut St. Concourse Is Scene Of Attempt; Police Rescue Culprit

In an incident which is much deplored by members of both races in this city, Jethro Toombs, 32, of Walnut street, accused of an attempted attack on [illegible] white, 24-year-old mother, of 4934 Pine st., has been held without bail for court here.

Rescued from an irate mob by police Sunday evening, after the attempted attack in the Walnut street concourse, Toombs caused to be inflicted on Miss Mell a number of cuts and bruises when she tumbled down a flight of stairs attempting to throw him off, according to the police.

Her screams brought a crowd running to her aid and Toombs was chased in the underground passage for about a block before being caught and pummeled severely by his pursuers. A half dozen cab drivers at Broad street suspected a purse snatching and joined the race.

Patrolmen Join

Patrolmen supervising a picket line nearby, noticing the excited rush of the crowd, followed into the concourse and rescued the cornered culprit.

Underground passages in Philadelphia have been recent scenes of several like attacks and more police protection is being asked by both colored and white residents throughout the city.

The attack on Mrs. Mell has brought an order from Police Superintendent Sutton for "as many patrolmen as necessary" to police the dimly lighted concourse from now on.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okl.

Editor Retracts Rape Charge Against Police Officer

SEP 27 1941

MEMPHIS.—(ANP)—At the instigation of Police Commissioner Joe Boyle, Eliehue Stanbeck, editor of the Industrial Leader, weekly paper, retracted a story carried in the Leader, Aug. 30, which was captioned "Bold Policeman Rapes 22-Year-Old Girl Monday Night." This correction came on the heels of Commissioner Boyle's statement that the man mentioned in the story was not a city policeman, but a special officer connected with the army depot project.

Running the story in his paper Saturday, Stanbeck reported that investigation made by Chief Deputy Oliver Perry held the charge of rape was unfounded, and also stated that the girl's age was given as 19 instead of 22. No mention of Boyle's demand for correction was made, however.

It was revealed that the girl's escort was Stanback's brother, Onward, and that the editor had taken the girl's word. His brother, the editor said, could not identify the man whom the girl claimed made the attack.

SEP 27 1941

Deputy Perry stated that the girl had picked out the man whom she claimed had assaulted her, and said, "If I have to die for saying it, this is the man who did it." The man, however, denied all knowledge of the incident. It was Perry's opinion that the girl's story was "unfounded" because of the difference in tales told by the escort and her.

Upon questioning the girl's mother, it was learned that the girl had never had a date until that night. It was revealed that Stanbeck had taken the woman and her daughter to a friend's home. Upon returning he asked the daughter to accompany him while he went for some drinks. It is said that the incident occurred just after they had left.

Asked if she was satisfied with the investigation, the mother said that she and her husband wanted to drop the case, for it was their belief that "not too much harm" had been done and the girl was still alive.

6760

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

NEGRO HELD IN TEXAS IS WANTED IN SEARCY

Suspected In Murder Of Young Farm Wife

LITTLE ROCK, June 21.—(INS)—A negro held in Dallas, Texas, for an attempted criminal attack on a Greenville, Texas, white woman early Saturday, is also wanted for the slaying of 18-year-old Mrs. Raymond Rongey of Searcy, Ark., police revealed late Saturday.

He was listed as John Edwards, whose home was said to be in North Little Rock.

According to Chief of Detectives O. N. [illegible] Little Rock police force, the negro had in his possession when arrested in Texas, the 1941 automobile which he bought in North Little Rock with a worthless $500 check. It had, however, been completely repainted.

Mrs. Rongey was found shot to death at her farm home a few miles from Searcy a week ago.

Negro Held Here In Attack Case

A negro was held in the city jail Monday night and police said they would charge him with attempted criminal assault on a 2-year-old girl. The [illegible] was reported to have occurred [illegible] home in the 7600 block of Avenue J.

The negro was arrested after neighbors chased him five blocks. The negro [illegible] in a garage, and the occupant of the house kept him there until police arrived.

Negro Charged In Slaying of Young Lufkin Bride

Sheriff Says Farm Hand Has Confessed

LUFKIN, Sept. 2.—(Sp)—Sheriff H. C. Billingsley Tuesday night filed a charge of murder against Mott Flounory, 70-year-old negro farm hand, for the fatal slaying July 14 of Mrs. Roy Morehouse, 19, wife of a Lufkin grocery truck driver.

The brunette victim, bride of four months, was found with her head bludgeoned in the kitchen of her farm home two miles east of here by her husband when he returned home from work.

Billingsley announced the negro signed a written confession Tuesday night before District Attorney E. B. Lewis, and two witnesses, Cecil Massingill and Ben Berry, giving attempted rape as the cause of the crime. The confession said the negro struck the woman three blows with an axe when she screamed.

The sheriff said Flounory, held in county jail here since the day following the slaying, confessed to the murder Friday in Beaumont, where he was taken by Billingsley and State Rangers R. D. Holliday and Q. J. Lowman. He said officers have been checking the negro's story since Friday.

The negro was brought to Lufkin Friday night, when he led officers to his cabin where the murder weapon was found, Billingsley said, and then returned to Beaumont. He was returned to the county jail here Tuesday.

Billingsley said the ax was taken to the state police laboratory in Austin Tuesday and checked for blood stains.

Ranger Holliday said more than a dozen suspects were questioned during the three-week investigation.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

WOMAN RAPED HERE PLACES BLAME ON "LOUIS" ARMSTRONG

Taking up with an acquaintance of only a few hours proved injurious to a Houston woman last week who suffered to the extent of being brutally raped and robbed of $4.00 in cash.

According to the story related to police by the woman, she was patronizing one of Houston's well-known taverns in the 2500 block on Sampson, when she met a fellow who introduced himself as Hal ("Louis") Armstrong, 3344 Anita, and stated he drove for a salesman.

After the two had talked for awhile the woman told her companion that she was going home. Armstrong offered his services in walking home with her.

The couple left the tavern in the company of two other persons and started towards McGowan.

At McGowan, the other couple turned off and the woman and Armstrong proceeded towards Dowling.

On reaching the 3000 block on Trully, Armstrong asked the woman if she didn't intend to go somewhere with him. When she stated that she had no intentions of accompanying him any farther he became insulting and told her "Oh, yes you are."

The woman attempted to break away but Armstrong grapped her by the arm and clasped his hand over her mouth to prevent screaming. He then took her to the nearby school house, where he forced his attentions upon her.

According to the woman, the relationship lasted about 20 minutes, during which time she was struggling to get away but he kept his hand over her mouth. When he had completed his ravishing, he let her get up and on seeing a group of people on the corner, she broke away and ran towards them. Armstrong, according to her statement, ran after her but on seeing the people turned and ran the other way.

The woman also stated to police officers that while they were having the relationship, she dropped her eye-glass case which Armstrong picked up and removed $4.00

6761

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Gov. Price Gets Plea To Save Negro Youth

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 20.—The Initiating Committee for a National Conference of Negro Youth, in the name of four million Negro young people, yesterday called upon Virginia's Governor James H. Price to save the life of 16-year-old Joseph Mikens, doomed to die in the electric chair on a framed charge of rape.

The telegram urging the Governor to pardon Mikens was signed by Miss Marie Richardson, acting secretary of the Initiating Committee, which has called a national two-day conference of Negro Youth for Nov. 14 and 15.

Mrs. Richardson stated yesterday, "We urge all organizations and individuals, especially young people, to send telegrams and letters immediately to Governor Price. This young boy's life must be saved."

Mikens was arrested on Nov. 25, 1940, in Waynesboro, Va., while on his way to a grocery store to do an errand for his mother. It was only after frantic hours of searching that she learned from police that her boy was being held on the charge of raping a white woman "who couldn't remember what had happened" or "who did it."

After a 45-minute trial, without jury, the youngster was sentenced to die on Feb. 21, 1941.

Through the efforts of the International Labor Defense of citizens' groups in Virginia, the case was appealed to the higher court, but on Oct. 16, the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals upheld the death sentence.

Appeal to the Federal courts is closed, since no Federal question was raised at the trial.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Suspect Held In Attack on Va. Woman

OCT 29 1941

Special Dispatch to The Post

Leesburg, Va., Oct. 28.—A Negro was jailed today on charges of dragging a 28-year-old married white woman from bed and criminally attacking her.

The Negro, Sam Legion, 22, of Berryville, was arrested early today along the Winchester-Leesburg Highway to be held for the grand jury and charged with rape, Commonwealth's Attorney C. F. Harrison reported today.

According to the victim's husband, the thug entered their house about 10:30 p. m. yesterday by raising a window and unlatching the door. He found the woman, her husband, and small child asleep in bed. Brandishing a knife, he is said to have dragged the woman into another room and criminally assaulted her.

Although he did not use his knife, the intruder is said to have threatened to kill the three if any resistance was attempted.

The husband then escaped to give the alarm. The assailant then is said to have dragged the woman into the yard where she escaped from him.

According to Harrison, it has not been decided whether a special grand jury is to be called or whether Legion will be held for the regular December jury. Harrison described Legion as large and husky. He is not married.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

No Witnesses, No Jury, Negro Youth Gets Death

Denouncing the Virginia Supreme Court's decision confirming the death sentence of a 16 year-old Negro boy, Joseph Mickens on a flimsily trumped up "rape" charge, as a barbarous travesty on justice, the International Labor Defense last week called for nation-wide support of the campaign urging Gov. James H. Price to save the child's life.

The decision, handed down on October 16, upheld a death sentence meted out last December in Waynesboro, at the end of a trial which lasted 45 minutes and was held without a jury, behind close doors.

The alleged victim of the assault could not identify the boy as her assailant and remembered nothing.

OCT 21 1941

The police had a document which was an alleged "confession" extorted from the boy by a combination of torture and plying him with a drink that "made him dizzy."

The ILD urged utmost speed in sending communications to Gov. James H. Price, Richmond Va. for immediate action on his part in saving the boy's life.

6737

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

FOUR MEN FREED OF RAPE CHARGE; CONFESSION FORCED

OCT 12 1941

SPARTA, Wis., Oct. 9—"Not guilty" was the verdict by a Circuit court jury here Saturday in the sensational rape case in which four Negro soldiers were accused of criminally attacking a white girl on a state highway near here last May.

The four soldiers, attached to the 184th Field Artillery, saw the tears run down the cheeks of the jurors as their youthful lawyer, Captain Euclid Louis Taylor, declared that the entire matter was



OCT 12 1941

ATTY. EUCLID L. TAYLOR

simply an attempt to smear the record of Negro soldiers and charge them with being rapists in a neighborhood where no racial prejudice existed.

Pick Jury Monday

The trial began Monday. The state secured a special assistant to the District Attorney, William Gleiss who was the district attor-



OCT 12 1941

MAJOR T. M. MANN

ney there for eighteen years, to prosecute the case with Leo Goodman, the district attorney. The selection of the jury, which lasted all day, was characterized by constant clashes between the attorneys for the state and Atty. Taylor. Atty. Taylor was careful in choosing a jury which would give more credence to an army officer than it would to any other person, he told Judge R. S. Cowie of the Circuit court.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

RAPE CASE OF SOLDIERS SET FOR SEPT. 29

SEP 14 1941

SPARTA, Wis., Sept. 9—Hearing on the charges accusing four colored soldiers assigned to Fort Custer with the rape of a white woman who could not identify them was continued Wednesday to September 29. Captain Euclid Louis Taylor who represents the four soldiers requested that he be given additional time for the preparation of the case on the ground that he did not receive notice of the trial until September 5th.

The prosecutor objected strenuously to a continuance and pointed out to the court that the state had gone to considerable expense in bringing in out-of-town witnesses to testify at the hering.

The judge told the prosecutor that justice was more important than money and ordered the witnesses to return Sept. 29.

Four soldiers, James Orgain, Royal Hudley, Clarence Frazier, and James Hilliard, were identified as the persons who raped Violet Van Kirk, white.

Berte Dixon, a colored military policeman, identified them although the woman said she was not certain that the men were the ones who assaulted her inasmuch as it was dark and she was unable to get a good description of them.

The case broke into the headlines when it was discovered that the men had been arrested and held in jail at Fort Custer without any charges being made against them. They were brought down to Sparta, Wis., where they had been told to plead guilty when Captain Taylor became interested in the case.

6807

37m-1941

ALABAMA

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Woman Kills Attacker And Flees South

37m

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ANP) — A woman here who fought off three white men who attempted to rape her, shooting one of them dead, has been terrorized into leaving town after she was exonerated of the slaying. She is reported in New York City.

DEC 20 1941

Mrs. Mary Moore, on her way from work the morning of November 18, was criminally attacked by three white men in an automobile who drove up beside her with one trying to pull her into the car.

She jerked loose and fired a pistol shot, killing Robert Roland McDonald, Jack W. Stansberry and Joe D. Isaac, the latter said to be 'dead' drunk in the back of the car at the time of the incident, got away.

It was feared that an effort would be made to prosecute the two living men if the rape victim had been allowed to remain in Birmingham.

She was working on the night shift at a Southside cafe when she was molested. No charges were lodged against the white men.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Woman Who Killed White Rapist Forced To Leave

DEC 21 1941

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 19 (ANP)—A woman here who fought off three white men who attempted to rape her, shooting one of them dead, has been terrorized into leaving town after she was exonerated of the slaying. She is reported in New York City.

37m

Mrs. Mary Moore, on her way home from work about 1:20 the morning of Nov. 18, was criminally attacked by three white men in an automobile who drove up beside her with one trying to pull her into the car.

She jerked loose and fired a pistol shot, killing Roland McDonald. Jack W. Stansberry and Joe D. Isaac, the latter said to be "dead" drunk in the back of the car at the time of the incident, got away.

DEC 21 1941

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ARKANSAS

6808

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37m-1941

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

COTTON PICKER SOUGHT FOR RAPING DAUGHTER

Officers Search Area Near Manila For Bill Ervin

Special to The Commercial Appeal

MANILA, Ark., Sept. 9.—State and county officers were scouring the wooded sections near here Tuesday night for Bill Ervin, 35, cotton picker who is sought on a charge of raping his 10-year-old daughter.

The assault is said to have occurred Saturday night.

Officers said Mrs. Ervin reported to them Sunday night that when the family and that of Claud Raye, who shared a house with them, started to town Saturday night there wasn't room in the one automobile for everyone. She said Ervin, who had been drinking, offered to walk to town with his daughter and the 12-year-old daughter of the Rayes.

When the three reached a scheduled spot, officers were told, Ervin grabbed the Raye girl but she jerked loose and ran. Ervin's daughter said her father forced her to return home with him where the assault occurred.

Ervin disappeared late Saturday night but returned to his home for a few minutes Sunday night only to disappear again.

The Ervin family came here two months ago from Mississippi.

37m-1941

6809

CALIFORNIA

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Girl, 15, Names White Lawyer In Rape Case

FEB 6

Claims Man, 59, Seduced Her And Is Father Of Unborn Child

LOS ANGELES (ANP) — Charged with seduction and statutory rape, besides being the father of her unborn child, George Watson, 59-year-old lawyer, was arrested at his offices last week on a complaint sworn out by the father of 15-year-old Doris Haney. The father, Walter Leo Haney, stated to Deputy District Attorney Don Avery that Watson had committed four attacks on his daughter who is now in the fifth month of pregnancy as the results of these relations. They had occurred on July 6, July 13, August 13 and 17.

According to Haney, the girl had been taken advantage of by Watson when sent by him on an errand to his office. The attorney had been handling legal work for an estate for which the father was administrator, and the girl has always acted as messenger during the transactions.

When Doris realized her condition, she, according to her confession to her father, had told Watson of it. She said that he sent her to a doctor and gave her a money order on a downtown store. Soon after this her father discovered her condition and swore out the complaint.

Watson, who is married and has been practicing law downtown for 27 years, suffered a so-called nervous breakdown following his arrest necessitating the postponement of preliminary hearing.

FEB 6 1941

White Doctor Sued for Attempted Attack

FEB 1 1941

LOS ANGELES (ANP)—George Marion Angel and his wife, Mrs. Carol Angel, filed suit, last week, for $10,000 against Dr. Arthur L. Richardson, white, resident surgeon of the Huntington Memorial Hospital of Pasadena.

The physician was charged with making amorous advances toward Mrs. Angel and attempting to attack her when she called at his offices for medical treatment in the First Trust Building, Pasadena. She is represented by Lloyd Griffith.

Mrs. Angel stated in her complaint that Dr. Richardson had attempted to kiss her and when she repulsed him, tried to overpower her. She exhibited bruises and scratches on her arms and body suffered in the scuffle.

Girl, 15, Says White Lawyer Seduced Her

FEB 1 1941

LOS ANGELES. — (ANP) — Accused of seducing a 15-year-old girl on four occasions and being the father of her unborn child, George Watson, 59-year-old white lawyer, was arrested at his office, last week, on a complaint sworn out by the girl's father.

Watson, who is married and has been practicing for twenty-seven years, suffered a so-called nervous breakdown following his arrest, and his preliminary hearing was postponed from January 16 to January 30.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

WHITE ATTORNEY ATTACKS GIRL, 15

APR 26 1941

LOS ANGELES, Calif., April 24—A 59-year-old white lawyer, George Watson, was found guilty of criminal assault on 15-year-old Doris Haney, 1019 E. 21st street, in Superior Court last week. The girl is in the seventh month of pregnancy and Judge Clement D. Nye has set May 1 as the date for sentence.

The case created a local sensation a few weeks ago when the veteran lawyer was arrested on four counts of rape upon the young race girl. At the times of the attacks, Watson was handling legal work for an estate of which the girls' father, William Haney, was administrator.

APR 26 1941

The girl testified that on each occasion she was sent to the attorney's office at 408 S. Spring street with a message from her father the attacks occurred. When she became pregnant the white man sent her to a doctor. Watson has been practicing law in Los Angeles over a period of 27 years. He is married and was highly respected in the community.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

White Lawyer Gets 6 Months for Rape

LOS ANGELES—George Watson, white attorney, must serve six months in jail for statutory rape of a 15-year-old daughter of one of his clients, and remain on probation for three years, Superior Judge C. D. Nye decreed this week.

MAY 17 1941

Watson was originally charged with four counts of statutory rape, but entered a plea of guilty to one count and secured dismissal of the remaining counts. Six months of the 12-month sentence imposed were suspended.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

COPS FACE SUIT ON ASSAULT CHARGES

APR 26 1941

LOS ANGELES, April 24—Trial date is set, May 14th, for the much publicized personal damage suits against Police Officers Leonard Peters, Jack Crowley and Sargeant John R. Steward as a result of alleged assault and battery charges, which were the outgrowth of a police raid on the Rossmore Grill on Sixth street, September 13th. Many innocent persons were said to be struck and beaten by the officers who made no arrests.

The plaintiffs are Earl J. Pinkney, Emmett Jackson, Levi McClain, Clarence Nathan, Chester Martin, railroad employees, and Albert Brennan, Rossmore Hotel bellboy. Walter A. Gordon, Jr. will eb their counsel.

APR 26 1941

Shortly after the incident, charges were filed with the police board of rights, but no action has since been taken by that body.

According to Gordon, the deputy city attorney representing the police, has indicated that he will seek a postponement. Gordon says that he will demand, however, that the defendants proceed to trial.

APR 26 1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

White Lawyer Jailed In Attack On Pretty Girl

MAY 17 1941

LOS ANGELES, May 15—(By ANP) — George Watson, white attorney, who pleaded guilty of the statutory rape of 15-year-old Doris Haney, daughter of one of his clients, was sentenced to serve a year in jail and put on probation for three years by Superior Judge Clement D. Nye this week. Six months of the jail sentence were suspended.

The girl, who is the daughter of Walter L. Haney, went to the lawyer's office on errands for her father who had retained Watson to represent him in the probate of an estate. Watson was originally charged with four counts of statutory rape, but entered a plea of guilty to one count and secured dismissal of the remaining counts.

37m-1941

D.C.

6810

Washington Post
Washington, D.

Girls Were 'Hugging and Kissing'

Prince Georges Jury Acquits Five Soldiers in Attack Case

Five Fort Meade soldiers charged with attacking a 17-year-old girl near Berwyn, Md., on August 7 were found not guilty yesterday in the Circuit Court for Prince Georges County. The jury deliberated less than an hour.

The soldiers, Lee Schroeder, 26, of Baltimore; Thomas Amato, 21, of Cleveland; and Cyril Beck, 25; William Greenjack, 23, and Francis Bauer, 32, all of Philadelphia, were accused by the girl of attacking her in a wooded section near the Washington-Baltimore Boulevard after offering a lift home from a tavern near Berwyn where she had made their acquaintance.

According to her story, another girl, who was with the soldiers in the car, broke away from them and fled through the woods. The other girl testified that she got out of the car and walked away. She admitted under questioning that no attempt was made to detain her.

The two girls admitted accompanying the soldiers to the tavern after a brief acquaintance and admitted treating to a round or two of drinks.

Thomas Barkley, tavern proprietor testifying as a defense witness, told the court he finally had to ask the girls and their boy friends to leave because they were creating a scene with their "hugging and kissing."

After their acquittal the soldiers, all of whom had been confined at the Upper Marlboro jail since August, left for Camp Meade to report to their outfit, the Sixty-first Surgical Unit.

The soldiers were represented by Frank Hall, and Brice Clagett.

The indictments against the soldiers, returned by the October grand jury, charged them with rape, assault with intent to rape and simple assault.

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37m-1941

D.C.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

'Kiss Bandit' Suspect Faces 9 Indictments

APR 29 1941

Nine indictments were returned against John Ignatius Tartaglia, 37-year-old insurance salesman of 1415 Juniper Street Northwest, by the Prince Georges County grand jury, it was revealed yesterday.

Tartaglia, who was claimed by county police to be the "kiss bandit" who terrorized women throughout the metropolitan area for several weeks earlier in the year, was indicted on five charges of assault with intent to rape and four of robbery. One charge against him was dismissed because of lack of evidence.

APR 29 1941

Indictments charging assault and sale of beer to a minor were returned against Paul Bowman, said to be the manager of the Harbor Club near Muirkirk, as a result of injuries suffered by William Staples, son of John Staples, a Bladensburg policeman, in a scuffle with Bowman when the latter attempted to eject the youth from the establishment.

Indictments Upheld

Six indictments charging violations of liquor laws placed against tavern owners by the October grand jury were upheld by the April session which reindicted the persons charged after defense attorneys had filed demurrers to the former indictments.

APR 29 1941

Liquor licensees who were so indicted were Herbert Sachs, of the Del Rio; A. Michael Young, of Mike Young's Place; Milton F. Barrett, of the Dude Ranch; Emil Stamm, of the Maryland Club Gardens; Louis Rosenfield, of the Rustic Cabin; and Maynard Fortune, of the P. & C. Drive In Cafe. A subsequent indictment also was placed against Young for a newer violation.

Eleven other persons were indicted for liquor violations by the jury, including Bernard Owens, of the Club Esquire, on two counts; Edward C. Getzendanner, on two counts, Olive Beuchanan and Cecil Buchanan, of Oxon Run Inn; Samuel Leiber and Guffie Lieber, of the Hi-Boy; John Klein and Edward P. Baldwin, of Klein's Tavern, and Rowena Tackett, Kelly Barnes, and Ethel Cox, selling in private homes.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

White Man, 43, Indicted for Assault on 6-Year-Old Girl

MAY 17 1941

While Florida lynchers were making good their second attempt to take the life of a 22-year-old youth for the alleged assault upon a 12-year-old white girl the District grand jury was returning an indictment charging carnal knowledge against a 43-year-old white man upon a 6-year-old colored girl here.

Frank W. Jacobs, the Washington white man, reputed father of three children and Government employee, was held under $2,000 bond by the grand jury which indicted him on Tuesday. He is alleged to have taken the granddaughter of Mrs. Susie Anna Rowan, of 83 Defrees Street, Northwest, into the woods near Union Market, east of New York Avenue, on April 26, and attacked her.

Youth Describes Auto

According to the information given the grand jurors by 13-year-old Thomas J. Quarles, of 822 First Street, Norhtwest, he saw the girl playing near her home when a white man driving an auto collided with a fire plug. The girl is said to have run up to the scene, later entered the rear seat of the auto and the man drove away.

Thomas noted the color and make of the machine and gave his information to other persons.

Jacobs, when picked from a line-up of five men by the grandmother, the girl, and another neighbor as the man seen in the neighborhood on the evening of the offense, and at other times, denied ever seeing the child or her grandmother. Thomas pointed out that green paint from the fire plug should be found on the bumper and fender of the machine figuring in the accident. Sure enough, the green paint was found on the car which Jacobs admitted having operated.

Cursed Grandmother

At one time during the investigation, Jacobs is reported to have called the grandmother a "d—— liar," and had to be silenced by officers.

According to the accused man, he had been drinking practically all of that particular day and had an accident in another vicinity. He started for police, he said, but knowing that he was under the influence of liquor went home and told his wife about the mishap and went to bed, where he was when arrested.

The abused little tot, who walked up and put her hand on Jacobs while he was in the line-up as the man who had assaulted her, told that he asked if she wanted a ride. She said the man took her to a store and bought her some candy then drove into the woods. She was brought back near her home after more than an hour and let out, it is reported.

Medical examination of the child revealed evidence of penetration, also certain stains upon her clothes.

MAY 17 1941

Mrs. Rowan has appealed to the District NAACP to assure full investigation and prosecution of Jacobs, W. Robert Ming, Jr., acting chairman of the legal committee, reported at a meeting of the executive committee last week. The organization gave her that assurance.

Mr. Ming lauded Detective Roy L. Blick and H. H. Hodge, both white, for their investigation of the case.

with the child and put her out of the car on First Street, around the corner from her home. He was later arrested, queried by detectives and accused of carnal knowledge.

MAY 10 1941

The child, small for her age, was taken to Gallinger Hospital, Saturday night, where Dr. Buck, after an examination, reported that she had been criminally attacked. She was returned to Gallinger on Wednesday morning for further treatment.

Held Under $2,000 Bond

Jacobs was arraigned before Judge John P. McMahon in police court, Tuesday, and the case was continued for a hearing Friday, the defendant being held under $2,000 bond.

The white man, reported to have been seen in and around Defrees Street on other occasions, is employed at the Government Printing Office, has a wife and three children, and resides at 918 Michigan Avenue, Northeast.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Girl, 6, Attacked by White Man, 43

MAY 10 1941

WASHINGTON

What police term one of the most brutal and fiendish attacks ever perpetrated in this city was revealed, Saturday evening, when Frank W. Jacobs, 43, white, was arrested on a charge of criminally assaulting a 6-year-old girl after allegedly kidnapping her from near her home.

Mrs. Susanna Roman, grandmother of the child, told the AFRO that the accused man came to the basement of her home, 83 Defrees Street, Northwest, between 5 and 6 p.m., Saturday, to see a tenant, and that the girl was said to have left the neighborhood in his auto.

Grandmother Calls Police

When neighbors told her that the child had entered Jacobs's car the license number of which they had noted, Mrs. Roman notified police, and Detectives Roy L. Blick and H. H. Hodge responded.

MAY 10 1941

About 8 o'clock that evening, the accused allegedly returned

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Girl Slaying Rouses Furor In Washington

Second Attack-Murder In Three Months Is Discovered In Capital

WASHINGTON, June 16.—(AP)—A pretty brunette stenographer who came here from Iowa last year to work at the War Department was found criminally attacked and choked to death today in a private garage near DuPont Circle, a section of stately mansions and fashionable shops.

The nude body of the victim, Miss Jessie Elizabeth Strieff, 23, was found in the garage of Dr. De Witt Croissant, professor emeritus of English at George Washington University, by Frances Williams, the professor's negro maid.

Only four blocks away Mrs. Rose Simon Abramowitz, 28, had been attacked and strangled in her apartment three months ago by a day-light intruder who has not been caught. Police believe both crimes might have been committed by the same slayer. Mrs. Abramowitz, a bride of one month, had come here from Kansas City, Mo.

The case drew comment on Capitol Hill where Senator Herring (D), Iowa, demanded that "something be done to stop such crimes in the national capital."

Miss Strieff had been reported missing yesterday by her fiance, Stanley Le Blanc, a clerk at the Farm Security Administration to whom she had been engaged for three months. The couple and Miss Christine Tankersley, with whom Miss Strieff shared a small apartment, were preparing a Sunday luncheon there when Miss Strieff went out to get some butter at a delicatessen store around the corner. She never returned.

A coroner's report said the girl had been strangled by a rope, belt or similar object drawn about her throat.

Washington Post
Washington, D; C.

Posse Here Hunts For Suspected Attacker of Girl, 4

A 4-year-old girl was assaulted and apparently criminally attacked last night only a block away from police headquarters.

Enraged neighbors of the child, who lives near Third and I Streets Northwest, immediately formed into posses and combed the vicinity for the suspected assailant, a 50-year-old white man recently released from C[illegible] workhouse.

Capt. I[illegible] Keck, acting chief of detectives, sent every available detective to the scene with orders to capture the suspect.

The child, unconscious, was discovered by her mother, and taken to George Washington Hospital in serious condition. Neighbors told police the suspect had been molesting neighborhood children during the past week.

Washington Post
Washington, D; C.

Man Accused Of Sex Crime Free on Bail

Discovering that a man indicted on a charge of ravishing a 6-year-old girl was free on $2000 bond, the district attorney's office acted swiftly yesterday to have him locked up without bail until he can be brought to trial. The trial is now scheduled for September 29.

Last April 23, a Negro mother told the police that her child had been outraged by a man who lured her into an automobile and took her into a woods near Union Market east of New York Avenue.

Within an hour, officers arrested Frank W. Jacobs, 43, a Government worker. The officers declared the child picked Jacobs as her assailant from a line-up of five men at the First Precinct Station.

Police Judge John P. McMahon held Jacobs to the grand jury on May 2, fixing the bail at $2000, which Jacobs posted. He remained free on this bond after being indicted on May 13 on a charge of carnal knowledge, which carries the death penalty if the trial jury sees fit.

Trial was set down for June, but several postponements were allowed. The fact that Jacobs has been at liberty came to the attention of Assistant District Attorney Bernard Margolius yesterday. Within an hour, with the approval of Acting District Attorney John W. Fihelly, Margolius filed a motion to revoke the bail. This is scheduled for hearing in the District Court tomorrow.

"This man's bond ought to be revoked and he should be placed in jail immediately," said Margolius. "First, because the indictment charges a capital offense. Second, the evidence is overwhelming, and a man against whom there is such a charge, supported by such evidence, simply ought not to be at large.

"Doubtless, the setting of a $2000 bond in the Police Court was proper, but it was continued after indicement only through an oversight, which this office acted to correct as soon as it came to our attention."

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

White Attack Suspect Jailed

WASHINGTON

The trial of Frank W. Jacobs, 43, white, employed in the Government Printing Office as a pressman for seven years, accused of criminally assaulting a 6-year-old girl three months ago, has been set for September 29.

Jacobs is charged with attacking the child after allegedly taking her to an isolated spot in the suburban section of the city in his car from the first block of Defrees Street, Northwest.

The defendant had been at liberty on $2,000 bond until Thursday when Justice Daniel W. O'Donoghue of District Court revoked that bond stating that the defendant's case was one that carried with it the death penalty and for that reason remanded him to jail to await trial.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Page Rankin: White Man Attacks D. C. Stenographer

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The vaunted race superiority complex of Mississippi's Democratic Representative John E. Rankin must have received a severe jolt last week after he arose in the House and advocated military police to protect the white women from Negro criminals and later picked up his paper to read that Orman W. Ewing, 53, white, former Utah Democratic national committeeman, was held without bail for attacking a [illegible]-year-old [illegible] stenographer.

On the floor of the House, Rep. Clarence Cannon of Missouri, was discussing the resolution which contained an item providing 100 additional policemen for the city of Washington.

Rankin queried: "There has also been some provision for some military police in Washington, has there not?"

The gentleman from Missouri replied: "Not in this bill."

Rankin came back: "If this condition of lawlessness and these outrages against white women by Negro criminals in this District continues, I think we ought to have military police here to protect the white women from such brutality."

Cannon did not reply [illegible]ly to the declaration.

Ewing is accused of breaking the chain on the young white girl's door clasping his hands over her mouth and nose, then raping her.

"He raped me," the girl told Police Court Judge W. J. Casey, after being threatened with death if she made an outcry.

Washington Post
Washington, D; C

Pleads Not Guilty

U. S. to Ask Death for Ewing In Attack on Girl Tenant

The United States attorney's office yesterday told a District criminal court that it intended to ask the death penalty for Orman W. Ewing, 53-year-old former Democratic National Committeeman from Utah, charged with attacking a pretty 19-year-old OPM stenographer on October 26.

The gray-haired Ewing, who was the girl's landlord, had just finished pleading "not guilty" in emphatic, measured tones when arraigned before Justice James W. Morris.

Disclosure that the prosecution would seek a death sentence was made by Assistant U. S. Attorney John W. Fihelly after Ewing's attorney, Homer L. McCormick had asked the justice to admit his client to bail.

Defendants accused of a capital offense may be released on bail at the discretion of the justice, McCormick argued.

He asserted that the circumstances of the case did not warrant Ewing's being held without bond: First, because his reputation was such that there was no doubt but what he would appear for trial; second, because the evidence presented at a preliminary hearing did not clearly indicate an attack had taken place.

He declared that the testimony of the blonde complainant did not indicate that force had been used upon her, and he asserted that she waited for about 21 hours after the alleged crime before reporting it to police.

Fihelly replied by repeating the girl's statement that Ewing had put his hand over her mouth and told her, "Shut up or I'll kill you." He added that the Government had other evidence but did not wish to submit it at that time.

Justice Morris took the question under advisement, pending a study of the testimony given at the preliminary hearing.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

15-Year-Old Girl Accuses Two Of Criminal Attack

Taken into custody and questioned at juvenile home when police found her in the home of a friend Thursday morning, 15-year-old Catherine Hunter, who had just been in Chicago a month, accused two youth of criminally attacking her.

The girl was found with one of the youth in the home of Mrs. Nancy Manley, to whom she said she went to escape the mistreatment of a friend of her mother in whose care she had been entrusted.

The woman, Mrs. Bobbie Smith, 227 E. 31st street, sought the aid of police in locating the girl when she failed to come home all night. The youth accused are Raymond Pitts, cousin of Mrs. Manley, and Mrs. Smith's son, Albert Viner. Both deny the girl's charges.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

ADMITS BEATING A YOUNG WOMAN AND RAPING HER

George Borko, 24 years old, 1531 North Welland avenue, confessed yesterday to Sergt. John Burns of the Willow Springs county highway police that he beat and raped a young woman who had permitted him to take her home from White City ballroom earlier in the day.

The victim said that she met Borko at the ballroom about three weeks ago. Instead of taking her home, he drove her to a prairie in Harvey and assaulted her, breaking her jaw, knocking out several teeth, blacking both eyes, and bruising her body. She asked him to take her to a hospital. Upon arriving at Holy Cross hospital, Borko asked if he might visit her after he finished work. She took the license number of his car and it was reported to police.

Borko, seized at work at the Santa Fe railroad yards at Cermak road and Welland avenue, said he had drunk half a pint of whisky prior to the attack. He was held for the sex offense bureau of the state's attorney's office on charges of assault and rape.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

STUDENT ADMITS RAPE INTENT IN PLIERS ASSAULT

James Hill, 16 years old, 7421 Wentworth avenue, pupil and athlete at the Tilden Technical High school, admitted to Assistant State's Attorney Samuel Papanek yesterday that he intended to rape Mrs. Rita Harsh, 40, when he attacked her in her home at 7552 Eggleston avenue last Wednesday.

After taking a formal statement from Hill, the prosecutor returned him to the custody of the Juvenile court where he faces trial Sept. 23. Papanek said that when Mrs. Harsh, who is recovering in the Englewood hospital, is able to testify the case will be taken before the grand jury.

Hill, who is over six feet tall and weighs 190 pounds, beat Mrs. Harsh with a pair of pliers after gaining admittance to the home on the pretext of leaving a message for her daughter, Janice, 17. He previously maintained he had beaten her because she had been talking about him.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Joliet Arrests 4 as Rapists; They Confess

BULLETIN.

James Alessio, 17 years old, 416 Liberty street, Joliet, was arrested last night as the fourth member of a gang which beat and raped a Joliet girl last Monday. State's Attorney James E. Burke of Will county said Alessio and the other three in custody made full confessions.

With the arrest of three young men, Joliet police announced yesterday they had solved the rape and assault of a Joliet girl and the beating of her escort. A fourth suspect is being sought. The crimes were committed last Monday.

James Bondarauk, who also uses the name James Bond, 19 years old, 615 Richmond street, Joliet, confessed, police said. The other prisoners are Clarence Spisak, 18, of 113 North Bluff street, Joliet, and Curtis Binzen, 16, of 10 North Hickory street, Joliet.

Has Police Record.

Bondarauk, according to the police, had been arrested on previous occasions, once last February on charges of hijacking slot machines in Calumet City and again several months ago in Peoria on charges of robbery.

Binzen and Spisak denied that they had raped the girl. State's Attorney James E. Burke of Will county and Joliet Police Chief Nicholas Fornango took charge of the investigation. Sheriff Joseph O'Neill, who has shown apathy in the investigation, was not called upon for aid.

According to police, Bondarauk said he and three companions were driving along country roads looking for spooners when they saw a parked automobile. They stopped, and Bondarauk, carrying a revolver, walked up to the parked car.

Beats the Occupants.

In the car, police quoted him as saying, he found a man and a girl. He struck the man with the butt of the revolver. The girl screamed, and he struck her. Bondarauk's companions bound the man with the girl's clothing and the four carried her into a nearby field and raped her, according to Bondarauk's reported confession.

The arrests were made on information received by Policeman Frank Skul of Joliet. Bondarauk's reported confession was made to Captains John Graham and Ervin Boe.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Rape Indictment Against Bike Bandit to Be Asked

The grand jury will be asked to indict Robert Schaffer, 16 year old bicycle bandit, on a charge of rape and two larceny charges, Francis McCurrie, assistant state's attorney, said yesterday. Schaffer, who was arrested several days ago, has admitted raping a 13 year old girl and attempting to attack another. He has been identified in 39 robberies. He lives at 823 West 50th place.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

RAPIST CAPTURED IN STORE ADMITS FIFTEEN ATTACKS

Pointed Out to Police By One of Victims.

Fifteen rapes or attempted rapes were confessed last night by a young man of 18, seized on the northwest side after one of his victims had seen him on the street. So anxious was he to boast of his exploits that he identified as his victims three women brought into Jefferson Park station to view him, before they could name him.

The rapist is David R. Steffey, 4818 North Kostner avenue, where he lives with his parents. He has been attending Wilbur Wright Junior college.

Steffey was arrested by Detectives Edward Schumacher and John Carlson after Allen Benjamin, 4604 North Kildare avenue, had called the station to say his wife, Mary, 20 years old, had recognized the young man as the one who had seized her by the throat and beaten her on the night of Nov. 28 when she was parking the family car in the garage behind their home.

Trail Him Into Store.

Benjamin and his wife trailed Steffey into a store and waited there for police, to whom they pointed him out. Mrs. Benjamin then went to the station and identified him at the preliminary showup. Five other women named Steffey as the man who had attempted to rape them. Two identified him as a rapist.

Before the Jefferson Park showup was over, Miss Lillian Bergquist, 26, of 2505 Winnemac avenue, was brought in by Summerdale police to view Steffey. She identified him as the man who attempted an assault on her last Wednesday night. Hers was the seventh case to be reported in the Summerdale district in which the women were seized in the same painful fashion by their attacker. Miss Bergquist signed a complaint against him. The Summerdale rapist has been sought nearly a week for questioning in the brick slaying of Mrs. Bergit Kyvik. Her body was found at Thome and East Ravenswood avenues.

Detective Joseph Bedelli, who has been working on the Steffey case for weeks, produced a picture last night drawn by a young woman art student whom Steffey attempted to assault Nov. 5. She is Miss Muriel Larson, 17 years old, of 4955 Argyle street. Her screams drove her assailant away, but not before she had caught a good sight of his face. The sketch proved almost a perfect likeness, Bedelli said.

14 Sex Crimes Reported.

Since August 14 sex crimes have been reported to Jefferson Park police, most of them attributed to a person answering Steffey's description—wide shoulders, 6 feet tall, and weighing about 165 pounds. A dozen more have been brought to police attention in Albany Park, just to the east. Police said more victims probably did not report attacks on them.

After facing the women last night in Jefferson Park station, Steffey was taken to Albany Park to be looked at by other women victims. A special showup was planned for today.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Young Rapist Identified by 20 Women

Twenty crimes against women of the far northwest side were charged by victims last night and readily admitted by David Steffey III., 18 year old Wright Junior college honor student, in a police showup for victims at Albany Park station. Seventeen of the crimes were attempts at rape and three of them were rape.

In each case the young man recognized his accuser and in several instances recalled details of his attacks which his victims had forgotten. Seventeen complaints were filed by the 20 women.

Steffey, who lives with his parents at 4818 North Kostner avenue, was to face another showup later in the evening at the Summerdale station, the center of an area in which a dozen women have been assaulted and robbed in recent weeks, and in which area Mr. Bergit Kyvik was

buldgeoned to death a week ago Saturday night by a sex killer, and her body left in a vacant lot at Thome and East Ravenswood avenues.

Alibi for Night of Murder.

DEC 22 1941

Police said, however, that young Steffey appeared to have an airtight alibi in this connection, established by his family before they knew of the seriou accusations against him.

Before the showup, police took precautions for Sheffey's safety. Violence was averted Saturday night when police kept angry husbands and male relatives of rape victims outside the station while identification of Steffey was in progress within.

As questioning of the young prisoner continued thru the night, detectives discovered they were dealing with a bizarre, introspective personality. For two years, Steffey said, he has been dominated by a dual fear: of the future and of abnormality.

His analysis of himself and his conviction that only by violent sex crimes could he overcome abnormality are contained in an amazing 21 page essay which was obtained by police yesterday from Steffey's desk at the junior college. Mingled with the philosophy of John Dewey, of which he has been a student more than a year, the document traced also his growing fears of the future and his efforts to plan against it.

"Barrier to My Progress."

Steffey told police his fears interfered with his studies and even with his progress in athletics.

"Among other things," he said, "I feared I was incapable of winning the complete love of any woman. These fears continued to be a barrier to my progress. The philosophy of Dewey taught me I couldn't prepare against everything in life, so I tried to improve upon Dewey."

DEC 22 1941

"One of the things that alarmed me was that I didn't like to go on dates. I never could find a girl I could talk to. In addition, I didn't like the girls I met because I didn't believe their wills were free."

After overcoming, thru crimes against women, his fear of abnormality, Steffey hoped to become a teacher, he said. He wanted to emphasize that:

"Happiness is a harmonious round of satisfaction. The satisfaction is based upon physical drive effected by the experience of the individual."

Steffey added he knew his actions of the last six months had been wrong because they brought unhappiness to others. In this connection he said that in recent weeks he has read every scrap of information available upon the crime of Nathan Leopold and the late Richard Loeb, murderers of Bobby Franks in 1923.

Planned Study of Defense.

He had planned to devote the Christmas holidays to digesting thoroly Clarence Darrow's defense of the two young murderers.

DEC 22 1941

The young rapist was seized Saturday night by Detectives Edward Schumacher and John Carlson after Allen Benjamin, 4604 North Kildare avenue, notified police that his wife, Mary, 20, had recognized a young man who had attacked her on the night of Nov. 28 as she was parking the family car.

The Benjamins trailed Steffey to a neighborhood store, then waited outside to point him out to the detectives who seized him.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

7 GIRL VICTIMS ACCUSE PAROLEE AS SEX CRIMINAL

JAN 6 - 1941

Seven small girls yesterday identified Norman E. Smith, 18 years old, a St. Charles parolee, who has served two terms in the boys school, as the person who had committed sex offenses against them. He has confessed more than a dozen sex crimes.

Four of the girls pointed him out in the Austin police station, where he was held after his arrest Saturday night. The others identified him at the detective bureau showup.

Several irate fathers jostled Smith and threatened to strike him as he was led into an anteroom of the detective bureau.

Smith's record shows he was first accused of sex crimes in 1935. He was sent to St. Charles in March, 1936, for two years for taking indecent liberties with children. He was paroled before he had served 18 months and on Aug. 6, 1938, was committed a second time for violating his parole. His father, Ray Smith, 1428 North Tripp avenue, a WPA worker, said his son was paroled last Oct. 30 for the second time.

JAN 6 - 1941

Quits Job After Release.

He obtained a job in a foundry after his release, his father said, but quit after two weeks because he was not satisfied with his wages of $22 a week. He will be questioned today by Samuel Papanek, assistant state's attorney, at the sex offense bureau.

At the same time complaints against Smith were being signed, another former inmate of the St. Charles school—Horton V. Anderson, 18, of 807 North La Salle street—was in jail in Des Plaines, where he and Oliver P. Forrest, 19, of 139 South Halsted street, had been held to the grand jury on a charge of burglary.

JAN 6 - 1941

Anderson and Forrest, who joked Saturday night about how they had outwitted police, were more sober yesterday. "I guess it wasn't such a good idea to tell how those Chicago cops gave us a pass because we had honest faces," Anderson said.

Two Arrested for Speeding.

Park Policemen Robert Donner and Joseph Longo arrested the two Dec 20 for speeding in Lincoln park. Donner said he released them with a summons to speeders' court after they said the car belonged to Forrest's father.

"I felt sure they were all right," he said. "Besides, it was only a few days before Christmas, and I didn't want to be hard on them."

Forrest and Anderson admtted later that the car had been stolen.

They were arrested Monday in St. Louis, Mo., with William A. Smith, 22, of 804 North Wabash avenue, who accompanied them to St. Louis in a stolen automobile.

Forest and Anderson were returned to Des Plaines to face charges of burglary. The two have admitted 20 burglaries in Chicago, 15 in Evanston, 3 in Des Plaines, and 1 in Normal.

Chief of Police Howard A. Becker of Des Plaines said he will seek to have the two indicted tomorrow.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

TELLS AT RAPE TRIAL OF ASKING 'SILENCE CURE'

JAN 7 1941

A jury of five women and seven men in the Criminal court listened yesterday to a description of the "silence treatment" for the cure of physical ailments as practiced by Hugh Green Carruthers, head of the Neological [new logic] Foundation.

Carruthers, 74 years old and bald, is on trial in Judge Joseph A. Graber's court on a charge of raping a 13 year old River Forest girl in his office at 32 West Randolph street last July 30.

Jury Impaneled Quickly.

The defendant, nattily dressed, listened attentively as his alleged victim testified. The courtroom was crowded with spectators, most of them members of his society. Carruthers claims to be one of seven Caucasions to have emerged from priesthood in the Kum Bum lamasery at Great Blue lake, northeast Tibet. The trial opened yesterday morning, with the jury being impaneled quickly.

JAN 7 1941

Questioned by Assistant State's Attorney Sam Freedman, the girl testified that she accompanied her mother, her aunt, and a cousin to Carruthers' office for examination for a suspected heart ailment.

"A woman there told me that Dr. Carruthers, as she called him, could look into my eyes and tell right away what was wrong with me," said the girl. "I understood that he could cure me with his silence treatment."

Writes Note to Carruthers.

The girl said she wrote a note to Carruthers at the dictation of the woman, which read, "I am suffering from heart trouble, and if Dr. Carruthers will treat men with silence, I will recover."

That formality over, the girl testified, she was presented to Carruthers. He didn't even bother to look into her eyes, but led her into his office, she said. He refused to admit her mother, aunt, or cousin.

In the office there was no silence, the girl said. Carruthers talked constantly to her, told her she was not ill, and then raped her, she charged. She later told her mother, and Carruthers was arrested.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

ASK INDICTMENT OF SEX CRIMINAL ON FIVE CHARGES

JAN 7 - 1941

Fathers of Two Girls Beat St. Charles Parolee.

Samuel Papanek, assistant state's attorney, said yesterday he will ask the grand jury today to indict a twice paroled sex criminal on three charges of taking indecent liberties with children and two of robbery.

The parolee, Norman E. Smith, 18 years old, 1428 North Tripp avenue, was identified at the sex offense bureau by eight girls ranging in age from 8 to 15 years. They said Smith had molested them, and three of the girls said Smith took small sums of money from them.

Protect Him from Fathers.

Detectives guarded Smith closely because fathers of two of the girls beat him severely at the detective bureau Sunday. They saved him from attack by a third father yesterday.

JAN 7 - 1941

Smith was arrested Saturday night by Austin police as he followed a young woman from a theater. Police said he confessed more than a dozen sex crimes. He was sent to the St. Charles School for Boys in March, 1936, to serve a two year term for taking indecent liberties with children.

Paroled in 18 Months.

After serving less than 18 months he was paroled. On Aug. 8, 1938, he was returned to the school after violating his parole. Again last Oct. 30 he was paroled. He obtained a job in a foundry, but quit after two weeks because he was dissatisfied with his pay of $22 a week.

The two robbery indictments which the grand jury will be asked to vote will be based on two of the three robbery cases in which he was identified by the girls, and which he has confessed.

Wilbert F. Crowley, first assistant state's attorney, said he will ask that Smith get at least two consecutive sentences if he is convicted.

Return Young Burglars.

Another St. Charles parolee, Horton V. Anderson, 8, of 807 North La Salle street, and Oliver P. Forrest, 19, of 139 South Halsted street, one of the two companions with whom Anderson was arrested a week ago in St. Louis, were taken the County jail to await grand jury action.

Anderson and Forrest both have long juvenile records and have admitted 20 burglaries in Chicago, 15 in Evanston, 3 in Des Plaines, and one in Normal. Anderson was paroled after serving 13 months of a two year sentence for burglary.

The third member of the trio, William A. Smith, 22, of 804 North Wabash avenue, is being held for federal authorities because he confessed helping drive a stolen automobile across the state line to St. Louis.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

RAPIST ATTACKS GIRL, 18, ON WAY HOME FROM FILM

APR 27 1941

A girl 18 years old was dragged into the bushes and raped yesterday near the North Western railway tracks at Sunnyside and Ravenswood avenues. She walked to Ravenswood hospital after the attack. There it was found that the rapist had bruised her throat severely when he choked her. She told police she had attended a movie with her cousin, who left her after the movie. She was on her way home when the rapist seized her. She described him as a man about 21 years old with a flat nose, who was wearing a brown leather jacket.

APR 27 1941

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

GIRL IS RAPED BY 9 MEN AND CRUELLY BEATEN

A young woman employed in the loop was in Holy Cross hospital yesterday recovering from the brutality of nine men who beat and raped her Saturday night.

APR 28 1941

The victim was changing street cars at Roosevelt road and Western avenue about 9:30 p. m. when two men seized her and forced her to accompany them to a flat near Western avenue and Taylor street, where they beat her into helplesness and raped her. Five more men arrived a few minutes later, and each raped her.

APR 28 1941

The victim, who is 27 years old, lost consciousness. When she revived the rapists were gone. Presently two more men came in and asked her what she was doing in their flat. She told them her story and they offered to drive her home. But they drove to a secluded spot where both raped her. They threw her from the car at 70th street and Campbell avenue, according to Policemen Harry Rudo and Frank Janousek, who investigated.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

U. OF I. STUDENT DRAGGED INTO AUTO AND RAPED

A University of Illinois co-ed was dragged into a car near her home in the 5000 block of North Hermitage avenue yesterday morning and raped. She was later released from the car at Ainslie and Bernard streets.

The girl had arisen early to bid farewell to a young man friend who was leaving on a vacation. She was to have met him in the neighborhood. Suddenly a car drew up and one of two men pulled her inside, overcoming her while his companion drove away.

A mother, 23 years old, was dragged into a car and raped Saturday night as she was on her way to her home in the 4400 block of Malden street. Police later arrested Marcaille Hough, 33, of 4550 North Racine avenue, whom they traced by an automobile license number given by the victim.

6814

Afro-American
Baltimore, Marylar

5 Girls Talk, Chas. Street Man Is Held

37m mg

BALTIMORE

A white Charles Street photographer was placed under $3000 bail to face grand jury action on three of five morals charges involving five elementary school girls ranging in age from 13 to 15 years following a hearing before Magistrate Elmer Hammer in Central police court Thursday.

The man, William Carroll Cole, 53, who has been operating a studio at 536 N. Charles Street for nineteen of the thirty-seven years he has been in the photographic business, was arrested by members of the vice squad on Wednesday evening following a month's investigation by Policewoman Violet Hill Whyte.

Denies Story of 5 Girls

Facing six charges, two of which were dismissed, one closed with a $25 fine, and the other three held important enough to warrant grand jury action, Cole, represented by Michael Freedman, white, pleaded not guilty and when placed on the stand emphatically denied the allegations.

The five girls testified that they visited the four-room Charles Street studio on various occasions from February to last Friday, July 11, receiving from fifteen to seventy-five cents a visit.

The testimony accused him of improper advances in several instances, perversion, and one of the girls frankly and in an unabashed manner admitted intimacies covering a five-month period.

One Leads the Others

This girl, testimony indicated, had taken each of the other four girls to the studio and on several occasions received a lump sum which she shared with her associate on that particular visit.

Though it was testified that the studio is located in a busy office building at Charles and E. Pleasant Street, the girls charged that the intimacies and attempted relationships occurred during business hours, generally after school.

One of the girls pointed out as the leader of the group testified that she first went there approximately two years ago while selling pencils and as time grew on the frequency of the visits increased to a regular schedule of three times a week.

Father of Two Children

Cole, who lives at 5507 Maple Avenue, is married and the father of two children, aged 10 and 20. While on the stand approximately thirty minutes, he not only emphatically denied the charges, which according to him "were not done in civilized countries," but classed the perversion charge as grotesque.

He admitted, however, that the leader had been coming to his place and that he had given her money "because her family was in need." He further admitted giving her money which he supposed she shared with the other girls. But explained that he did this to get rid of them.

Attorney Freedman produced Mrs. Ollie Harris of 1113 Harlem Avenue who, as the photographer's maid for three years, denied seeing her boss committ any immoral acts in the studio.

Girls Seem Unashamed

Testimony during the three-hour trial shocked the seasoned court spectators as the girls seemingly unashamed of their actions answered questions propounded by the defense counsel and the magistrate.

The case came to the attention of Policewoman Whyte on June 23 when a person who identified himself as a Charles Street merchant complained of young girls frequenting Coles' studio. Her investigation led to the arrest of the leader, it was said.

Explaining his action in dismissing two of the cases, Magistrate Hammer said he felt there was a willingness shown on the part of the girls because they returned and apparently submitted in order to get some money.

Fined $25 on One Count

Cole was fined in the third case, the jurist said, because for grounds for an assault charge had been established due to the fact that the girl had attempted to push him away when he touched her. The fine was levied in view of the more serious charges the defendant must face in a higher tribunal, Magistrate Hammer commented.

The jurist levied bail in the case of the leader of the girls because he felt that a prima facia case had been established to support a charge of carnal knowledge. Bail was set at $1000.

In the case involving the fifth girl, a similar bail was set on each of two charges: one, attempted attack, and the other, perversion.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Laurel Girl, 13, Attacked; Police Hold Soldier

Prince Georges County police yesterday were holding a Fort Meade (Md.) soldier and were searching for a second in an alleged criminal assault upon a 13-year-old Laurel (Md.) girl.

3 7m

The soldier, who gave the name of Private John D. Taylor, was arrested by Prince Georges County Policemen Lou Mackall and Lee Pumphrey after a lookout was broadcast for the girl at request of her parents.

Police said the girl met two soldiers at a dance in Laurel Friday night and was assaulted on a lonely road near Laurel.

Times-Picayune
New Orleans, La.

YOUTH IS GRILLED IN GIRL'S BRUTAL ATTACK SLAYING

Body of Victim Discovered in Kitchen of Empty Parsonage

(The Associated Press)

Reading, Mass., July 20.—A 15-year-old boy was questioned relentlessly Sunday as a suspect in the brutal slaying of Constance Shipp, 15, whose mutilated body was found Saturday night in the kitchen of an unoccupied parsonage two blocks from her home.

The boy was taken into custody shortly after police ended a four-day search for the Reading high school junior by finding her body in the parsonage, tenantless during the absence of a Baptist church pastor and his family on vacation.

District Attorney Robert L. Bradford, aided by state detectives and Reading police, immediately began questioning the boy in the presence of his father, who was called to police headquarters with him.

Meanwhile, police sought a telephone tipster, whose call led to the finding of the body of the missing girl.

The tipster was reported to have said that a youth was seen in the parsonage yard calling to the Shipp girl Tuesday afternoon as she walked toward her home after a shopping trip to a grocery store a few blocks away.

Acting upon the tip, police forced a door of the parsonage, and found the girl's body in the kitchen.

She had been stabbed in the left breast, her head was wounded as though struck by a heavy tool, and the body was slashed.

Police found a bread knife in her left hand, but District Attorney Bradford declared it apparently had been planted in an attempt to leave the appearance of a suicide.

Bradford said there was no question but that the girl was the victim of a brutal attack.

He ordered a complete autopsy and pathological examination to determine the exact cause of her death and the extent of contributing injuries.

Girl's Battered Body Is Found

(The Associated Press)

Salem, Mass., July 20.—The battered body of pretty 19-year-old Frances M. Cochran of Lynn was found Sunday in a lonely road near the Salem-Swampscott line.

Missing since Thursday, the girl had been sought by state police who also were searching for 15-year-old Constance Shipp, whose body was found Saturday night in an unoccupied church parsonage in nearby Reading.

The body of Miss Cochran was identified by Lynn police through rings she wore. Police said they were unable to say whether she was slain or the victim of an automobile accident pending arrival of a medical examiner.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Boy Is Quizzed in Rape Killing; 2d Body Found

Reading, Mass., July 20 [Special].—Investigation of the rape slaying of a school girl, 15 years old, was widened today after the discovery of the battered body of another girl on a road near Salem, about 15 miles from here. It was not known definitely whether the second girl, 19, had been slain or was the victim of an automobile accident.

Police questioned a boy, 15, about the slaying of the school girl, Constance Shipp, whose body was found last night in the kitchen of a vacant parsonage. She had been missing since Tuesday.

Her body was found after a mysterious telephone caller told police a boy had been seen in the parsonage yard last Tuesday calling to her. She was on her way home from a grocery a few blocks away.

Body Found in Kitchen.

Police forced a door of the parsonage, unoccupied since a Baptist minister and his family who live there had left for a vacation, and found the body on the kitchen floor.

The girl had been stabbed in the left breast and her head was injured as tho struck with a heavy tool.

A bread knife was found in the girl's left hand, but police and District Attorney Robert L. Bradford said they believed it had been placed there by the slayer to give the appearance of suicide.

Seek Exact Cause of Death.

Police said they believed the girl had been felled on the parsonage lawn by a blow on the head and had been dragged inside the house. An autopsy was ordered to determine the exact cause of death and the contributing factors.

The boy, whose name was withheld, was questioned in the presence of his father.

Miss Shipp, a junior in Reading High school, was wearing a sports blouse and shorts when she was slain. Her father, George Shipp, who is unemployed, formerly was a salesman for an exporting concern.

The second girl, Frances Cochran of Lynn, a bookkeeper in a leather factory, had been missing since Thursday. She was seen entering an automobile driven by a dark skinned man after having left a girl friend to mail a letter.

37m-1941

MICHIGAN

6816

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

FOUR GANG RAPE SUSPECTS FACE LIE TEST TODAY

Four suspects held by the Albany Park police in the rape of a Joliet girl near that city Monday will be subjected to lie detector tests by the police today. Three of those arrested admitted being near the scene of the attack Monday, but denied that they slugged or raped the girl.

Present at the test will be T. P. Sullivan, director of the state department of public safety; Chief of Police Nicholas Fernango of Joliet, Capt. Frank Gill and Lieut. Thomas Brennan of the Albany Park station. Sheriff Joseph O'Neill of Will county, who has shown apathy in investigating crime, was not asked to aid.

Two of the suspects, who admit that they are army deserters, are Earl Carl, 18 years old, and John Dreman, 20, both of 62 West Huron street. The other two are Frank Pehl, 20, also of 62 West Huron street, and Guy Wolfe, 18, of 938 Bush street. All admitted stealing automobiles, according to the police.

37m-1941

MISSISSIPPI

6817

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

TWO HELD AT TUPELO ON ASSAULT CHARGES

OCT 9 1941

Men Accused Of Attacking 16-Year-Old Girl

37m

From The Commercial Appeal
Tupelo, Mississippi Bureau

TUPELO, Miss., Oct. 8.—Circuit Judge W. H. Inzer, in a preliminary hearing here Wednesday, ordered Ebb Butler and Charles Thomas Edwards held without bail until November term of court, to answer statutory charges of rape, filed by a 16-year-old white girl.

County Attorney John Anderson established the fact that the two men, ostensibly to carry them home, lured the girl and her 15-year-old sister to an unfrequented portion of the "Rock Road" south of Tupelo, and there criminally assaulted the older of the two. The younger girl broke from the men and ran to safety. Torn and blood-stained clothing of the victim was introduced as evidence as was the testimony of Dr. W. R. Hunt, who examined the victim the day after the alleged assault. Police officers, to whom the girl reported the assault and Bennie Jeffries, driver of the taxi engaged by the defendants on the evening of the alleged crime, also testified.

OCT 9 1941

Attorney Marshall T. Adams for the defense, sought to show a background of delinquency for the plaintiff, but this line of testimony was ruled as irrelevant by Judge Inzer in sustaining Attorney Anderson's objection.

Butler, about 38, was attended by his attractive young wife during the all day hearing.

6818

Argus.
St. Louis, Missouri

WHITE YOUTH KIDNAPS GIRL

Attempts to Attack Her In Forest Park

Police sought a young white man who lured a 6-year-old colored girl from her home last Sunday morning and attempted to attack her in Forest Park. The girl was found in a ravine crying by a white woman who took her to her home and called police.

The child is Josephine Morgan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Morgan of 4300 Maffitt avenue, Apt. 7, and a kindergarten pupil at Simmons school. She was playing in front of her home when the man came by and dropped a coin which she picked up. He then offered to buy her some candy and enticed her away. She became frightened but was afraid to resist or scream when he put her on a Taylor avenue street car and said he was going to take her for a ride. A neighbor who saw the white man about 25 years old walking with the little girl about a block from her home notified her parents, but they had disappeared when they looked for them.

The little girl stated that the man took her into the park and attempted to make her lie down and she begun to cry and threatened to scream whereon he fled.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

White Man Freed Of Girl's Charge

JAN 25 1941

Samuel Baker, white, concessionaire at Madison Square Garden, accused of rape by a 15-year old girl, was freed by Magistrate Morris Rothenberg in Felony Court Monday for lack of evidence. The girl had accused Baker of attacking her in his room at 313 West 50th St. on two occasions.

Despite the presence in court of Children's Aid Society representatives in behalf of the complainant, Evelyn Johns, of 328 West 53rd St., the complaint was dismissed when the girl not only failed to produce any proof the court considered conclusive but was accused by the man of stealing a clock.

The girl, who could hardly write her name, insisted to the court that Baker had induced

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

CHILD ATTACK CREATES STIR

Man Admits Assault On Little Girl In Institution

FEB 22 1941

MINEOLA, L. I.—Possibility of demands for a thorough investigation of the Nassau County Sanitarium was hinted by the local N.A.A.C.P. after John Taafe, 42, white, pleaded guilty Thursday to statutory rape and second degree assault on a 12-year old girl while the latter was an inmate there last July.

Taafe, married and father of a 16-year old son, will be sentenced by Judge Johnson in County Court here February 25. He confessed assaulting the child who is now pregnant, while she was alone in a playroom at the hospital.

The case was brought to light by David Adams, president, and Benjamin Lowery, vice-president of the N.A.A.C.P. branch, prosecuted by Attorney Florence Lucas, branch counsel, to whom the parents of the girl appealed for aid.

According to the parents, the child, a tubercular patient in the institution since March, 1938, was sent home last December with no hint of her condition which was not discovered until she complained and was taken to the family doctor for examination.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

WHITE MAN, 42, ADMITS RAPE OF GIRL, 12

FEB 23 1941

37m

NEW YORK, Feb. 20.—Arraigned before Judge Johnson in the Nassau County Court at Mineola, Long Island, Thursday, Feb. 13, John Taaffe, a 42-year-old white electrician, pleaded guilty to a charge of satutory rape and second degree assault against a 12-year-old Negro girl, who named him as the father of her unborn child.

Taaffe, who has been in the county jail since February 7, was indicted by the county grand jury the day before his arraignment. He will be sentenced on Feb. 25. The child, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. Hunt, live in Roslyn, New York, was represented by Miss Florence Lucas, legal counsel for the Nassau County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Action in the case was started by the N. A. A. C. P., according to David Adams, president of the branch; and Benjamin Lowery, vice-president, when the child's parents learned from their physician on January 27 that the child was pregnant.

Inmate of Sanitorium

Since March, 1938, the child had been an inmate of the Nassau County Sanitorium. She was released to her parents last December. Despite the fact that the child, unaware of her impending motherhood, had complained to the hospital physician last November no examination was made, according to her parents, even when they took their daughter back to the hospital for a final check up January 23. FEB 25 1941

The truth was learned only when their family physician examined her, after the hospital authorities had advised them that the child need not be returned, but could be examined by the family doctor.

Questioned by officials of the Children's Shelter on January 27, the child implicated the electrician, who is said to have been employed at one time at the sanitorium. Officials of the N. A. A. C. P. took the case immediately to District Attorney Neary, of Nassau County who had Taaffe arrested the following day.

Just what action the N. A. A. C. P. will take in connection with an investigation of conditions at the sanitorium where the child was confined, has not been determined. Attorney Lucas said.

The Northwest Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

White Man Admits Attack on 12-yr.

FEB 21 1941

New York — Arraigned before Judge Johnson in the Nassau County Court at Mineola, Long Island, Thursday, February 13, John Taaffe, a 42-year-old white electrician, pleaded guilty to a charge of statutory rape and second-degree assault against a 12 year old Negro girl, who named him as the father of her unborn child.

Taafe, who has been in the county jail since February 7, was indicted by the county grand jury the day before his arraignment. He will be sentenced on February 25. The child, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. Hunt, live in Roslyn, New York, was represented by Florence Lucas, legal counsel for the Nassau County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Action in the case was started by the NAACP, according to David Adams, president of the branch; and Benjamin Lowery, vice president, when the child's parents learned from their physician on January 27 that the child was pregnant.

Since March, 1938, the child had been an inmate of the Nassau County Sanitorium. She was released to her parents last December. Despite the fact that the child, unaware of her impending motherhood, had complained to the hospital physician, last November, no examination was made, according to her parents, even when they took their daughter back for a final check up January 23. The truth was learned only when their family physician examined her, after the hospital authorities had advised them that the child need not be returned, but should be examined by the family doctor. FEB 24 1941

Questioned by officials of the Children's Shelter on January 27, the child implicated the electrician, who is said to have been employed at one time at the sanitorium. Officials of the N. A. A. C. P. branch will take in connection with an investigations of conditions at the sanitorium where the child was confined, has not been determined, Attorney Lucas said.

The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

WHITE MAN ADMITS GUILT

12-Year-Old Child

FEB 27 1941

New York—Arraigned before Judge Johnson in the Nassau County Court at Mineola, Long Island, Thursday, February 13, John Taaffe, a 42-year-old white electrician pleaded guilty to a charge of statutory rape and second-degree assault against a 12-year-old Negro girl, who named him as the father of her unborn child.

Taaffe, who has been in the county jail since February 7, was indicted by the county grand jury the day before his arraignment. He will be sentenced on February 25. The child, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. Hunt, live in Roslyn, New York, was represented by Miss Florence Lucas, legal counsel for the Nassau County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Action in the case was started by the N. A. A. C. P., according to David Adams, president of the branch; and Benjamin Lowery, vice president, when the child's parents learned from

Miss Hammond said she adopted the child was pregnant. FEB 27 1941

Since March, 1938, the child has been an inmate of the Nassau County Sanitorium. She was released to her parents last December. Despite the fact that the child, unaware of her impending motherhood, had complained to the hospital physician last November no examination was made, according to her parents, even when they took their daughter back to the hospital for a final check up January 23. The truth was learned only when their family physician examined her, after the hospital authorities had advised them that the child need not be returned, but should be examined by the family doctor.



New York Age
New York, N. Y.

WHITE ELECTRICIAN ADMITS RAPE OF TWELVE-YEAR-OLD NEGRO GIRL

FEB 22 1941

MINEOLA, L. I., N. Y.—Joseph Taafe, 42, of Main Parkway, Plainview, an electrician, formerly employed at the Nassau County Sanitarium at Farmingdale, pleaed guilty before County Judge Cortland A. Johnson to a statutory crime growing out of his attack last July on a 12-year-old Negro girl who was a patient at that institution.

The crime was not discovered until October when the child was found to be an expectant mother. Taafe was remanded for sentence on February 25.

FEB 22 1941

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is taking an active interest in the

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

NORDIC FIREMAN ACCUSED OF RAPE ON COLORED GIRL

APR 29 1941

LONG ISLAND CITY, N. Y.—(ANP).—A white fireman employed at La Guarda field accused of kidnapping and criminally assaulting Betty Johnson, 21, of Queen Village, L. I., in the early morning hours has been released in $2,500 bail and the case adjourned to May 8.

APR 29 1941

Arrested the same day by Detective Andrew G. McElligott, brother of Fire Commissioner John J. McElligott, at his job, William Jacobs married and the father of two children, was arraigned in felony court.

Miss Johnson's story is that while sitting in a parked car with Clarence Mendel, a friend, Jacobs approached them and brandishing what turned out to be a toy pistol, ordered her to get out of the car and get into his. This she did and he drove to a point near the intersection of Rockaway avenue and Daisley and is said to have attacked her, then made her leave the car.

The matter was reported to the police by Mendel who observed Jacobs' car license number as he drove his car away.

APR 29 1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

WHITE MAN ADMITS GUILT IN ATTACK ON CHILD. 12

FEB 22 1941

Father of Unborn Baby Was Employe At Hospital Where Young Girl Was Confined—He Will Be Sentenced Next Week.

NEW YORK, Feb. 20—Arraigned before Judge Johnson in the Nassau County Court at Mineola, Long Island last Thursday, John Taaffe, a 42-year-old white electrician pleaded guilty to a charge of statutory rape and second degree assault against a 12-year-old girl, who named him as the father of her unborn child.

Taaffe, who has been in the county jail since February 7, was indicted by the county grand jury the day before his arraignment. He will be sentenced on February 25. The child, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. Hunt, live in Roslyn, N.Y., was represented by Miss Florence Lucas, legal counsel for the Nassau County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Action in the case was started by the N.A.A.C.P., when the child's parents learned from their physician on January 27 that the child was pregnant.

Since March, 1938, the child had been an inmate of the Nassau County Sanitorium. She was released to her parents last December. Despite the fact that the child, unaware of her impending motherhood, had complained to the hospital physician, last November no examination was made.

Questioned by officials of the Children's Shelter on January 27, the child implicated the electrician, who is said to have been employed at one time at the sanitorium. Officials of the N.A.A.C.P., took the case immediately to District Attorney Neary, of Nassau County, who had Taaffe arrested the following day.

Just what action the N.A.A.C.P. branch will take in connection with an investigation of conditions at the sanitorium where the child was confined has not been determined, Attorney Lucas said.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

White Firemen Accused Of Criminal Attack

APR 27 1941

LONG ISLAND CITY, N. Y., April 24—(ANP)—A white fireman employed at La Guardia field, accused of kidnapping and criminally assaulting Betty Johnson, 21, of Queens Village, L. I., in the early morning hours of Wednesday, has been released in $2,500 bail and the case adjourned to May 8.

Arrested the same day by Detectives Andrew G. McElligott, brother of Fire Commissioner John J. Elligott, at his job, William Jacobs, married and the father of two children, was arraigned Thursday in felony court.

Miss Johnson's story is that while sitting in a parked car with Clarence Mandel, a friend, Jacobs approached them and brandishing what turned out to be a toy pistol, ordered her to get out of the car and get into his. This she did and he drove her to a point near the intersection of Rockaway avenue and Daisley Boulevard and is said to have attacked her, then made her leave the car.

APR 27 1941

The matter was reported to the police by Mandel who observed Jacobs' auto license number as he drove his car away.

6820

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

N.J. Police Nab White P.O. Man

APR 5 - 1941

SUMMIT, N.J.—Mrs. Elnora Brummell, attractive 27-year-old mother, became the second victim in a wave of sex assaults by white men when she was allegedly attacked in the kitchen of her employer by Frank Gerber, a U.S. Postal Service employee last Friday.

APR 5 - 1941

The young wife, who recently moved here from Clarksville, Va., declared that she had answered the bell round 1:30 p.m. and admitted a man with some parcel post packages. No one was at home except a child in the bed upstairs.

37m

He had four bundles that he was delivering to the residence located in the exclusive residential section of Springfield Avenue. After she signed for one, Mrs. Brummell stated, the man upon taking the slip, suddenly grabbed her around the waist and attempted to kiss her.

He then threw her to the floor, she continued, mussing her clothes, and attempted to commit an act of perversion which she thwarted.

APR 5 - 1941

For fully forty-five minutes, she grappled with the man, Mrs. Brummell continued, fighting, biting and kicking to stave off his fiendish attack. The man then, according to her story, fled upon hearing the child upstairs jumping in the bed. She told him that her employer was returning and this served to hasten his flight.

Tells Employer

APR 5 - 1941

Mrs. Brummell, in a highly nervous condition, related the details to her employer, who came in soon after and called the police. The victim had written the number of the mail truck down on a paper towel.

Gerber was arrested Sunday and Mrs. Brummell was called to headquarters in order to identify her assailant. Gerber, married and the father of one child, was suspended from his duties in the post office and at a preliminary hearing before Judge Robert J. Murphy, Jr., of the Summit Police Court, was held over for the action of the grand jury on charges of assault and battery and attempt to attack.

Mrs. Brummell is represented by J. Leroy Jordan. She lives with her cousin, Miss Pela Evans of 55 Ashland Avenue.

Three weeks ago, Mrs. Johnnie B. Holmes of Newark was accosted in the kitchen of her employer in Nutley, N.J., by a 22-year-old Italian youth. This case is also awaiting action of the grand jury.

APR 5 - 1941

Triangle Unit of the Civil Liberties League is backing the case, it was announced Monday night.

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

White Soldier To Prison For Raping Tots

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.—Private Joseph Kolis, 24, white, Fort Dix soldier, was sentenced to five to eight years in the penitentiary, Saturday, for criminally attacking two small children here on August 4.

At the same time, Kolis, a native of Steubenville, Ohio, was sentenced to a year and a day for attempting to attack Miss Anna Johnson, 1310 New Gretna Court, into whose home he forced entry shortly before he was arrested for violating the children. The two terms are to run concurrently.

Has Long Record

Agents of the FBI revealed that the white youth has a police record that included nine convictions between 1930 and 1934 on rape and robbery charges in various states from New Jersey to California.

A physician testified that the two children, 3 and 4-year-old daughters of Mrs. Lillian Lewis of 1332 New Gretna Court, had been violated.

According to testimony, Mrs. Lewis was visiting a neighbor, and other residents, suspicious of Kolis' actions summoned police who found the soldier bending over the two frightened little girls.

Attempted Suicide

Kolis attempted suicide after his arrest by leaping from the seoond-floor window at police headquarters while being questioned.

The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

Pretty White Girl Attacked By White Man!

AUG 2 1 1941

37m

SHE FOUGHT DESPERATELY! SAVED BY YOUNG NEGRO!

In regard to this almost fatal affair, the Cincinnati Examiner, with glaring headlines, said: "If a story told by a twenty-year-old waitress is correct, then the police filed the wrong charge against Edward Bear, 20 years old, 1709 Printz street, who must appear in Police Court August 15AUG 2 1 1941

Miss Naomie Koch, 20 years old, 3715 Eastern avenue, said she was on her way home from work when Bear accosted her on Walnut street between Eighth and Ninth streets and dragged her into Lippincott Alley.

The young woman said the youth tried to attack her and in fighting him off she was bruised about the head and body. A young Negro saw Miss Koch grappling with her assailant and when he tried to intercede for her Bear told him, "Beat it, this is my wife." AUG 2 1 1941

However, the Negro remained on the scene and when Miss Koch broke away from Baer he escorted her to Central Station.

Two policemen with Miss Koch along cruised the downtown area. At Sixth and Walnut streets she pointed Baer out to the coppers. A charge of assault and battery was placed against him. Why he was not charged with attempted criminal attack was not explained.

In her scuffle with Baer the young woman lost a $5 bill which she had wrapped in a handkerchief. The latter was found in the alley by police. Miss Koch said she was walking south on Walnut street when Bear seized her. The assault on Miss Koch occurred after midnight. When the case was scheduled for hearing in Police Court, Bear requested a continuance until August 15."

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

$20,000 Suit Filed In Ohio Attack Case

37m

CLEVELAND, Ohio.—Suit against David L. Ray, white, of Shaker Heights, on behalf of a 17-year-old girl, who is about to become a mother, was filed in common pleas court last week by Chester K. Gillespie, attorney, in which the plaintiff, through her aunt, a resident of Mt. Pleasant Heights, seeks $20,000 damages from Ray.

The SEP 20 1941 that on or about December 18, she started to work as a domestic in the Ray home, and that she was attacked by her employer late in January of this year, while Ray's wife and daughter were visiting in Louisiana.

Recently the girl who left the employ of the Ray family shortly after the attack, complained of being ill, and was taken by her aunt to Dr. Carl Kent who said that she had been pregnant for six and one-half months.

Last week the juvenile court authorities served a warrant on Ray on a charge of bastardy and his hearing is set for this week.

The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

NINE WHITE MEN! Forgot the Color Line!

A TWENTY-YEAR-OLD COLORED WOMAN, AND A SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL, THEIR VICTIMS!!

37m

Two men were being held for investigation yesterday as a search was made for seven others who are said to have attacked and abused a sixteen year old Negro girl and a twenty-year-old Negro woman off Hillside Avenue in the county section near Old Rapids Run Road, after forcing them into an automobile in the West End.

The suspects in custody were William Wahoff, 30, 2121 St. Michel Street, and John B. Souder, 22, 2391 Wilder Avenue. Both denied the accusations.

Patrolman Russel Poland said he was passing Stop 3 River Road when he saw two men, one later identified as Souder, leave Wahoff's machine. He said he did not detain them when Wahoff explained that they had hitchhiked him for a ride in Cleves.

Later the officer said he found Mary West, 20, Negro, 969 Gest Street, and the girl, who told of the attack. Both were treated at General Hospital. The Negroes said they were forced into an automobile at Oehler Street and Freeman Avenue early yesterday, then taken to the lonely spot in the county. They said the car in which they rode was followed by another machine containing five young men.—Enquirer.

NOV 8 1941

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Police Push Manhunt In Assault Of Girl

JAN 1 1941

YOCUMTOWN, Pa.—(AP)—State police Wednesday resumed their search of the North York County countryside for the assailant of attractive Esther Firestone, 17, and hoped for a "break" within the next 24 hours.

The farm house domestic returned to her Yocumtown home Wednesday without any traces even of a cold, after 24 hours in the Harrisburg Hospital, where her condition was watched for hints of pneumonia after six hours' exposure, bound and gagged, in the rarely-visited Yocumtown area.

The girl, who had been taken into the hospital in a semi-conscious condition, was returned to her home here without a mark, and state police were baffled as to how she could have been attacked early Monday on her way to William Bamberger's farm, where she was employed as a domestic.

Miss Firestone said that a man appeared from "nowhere" as she made her way to Bamberger's farm Monday morning, threw a bag over her head and carried her into the woods.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Child Raped, Murdered In Philaelphia

(Special to the Daily Worker)

PHILADELPHIA, May 23.—Elizabeth Dover, a twelve-year-old Negro girl, was raped and murdered in this city this week.

Her body was found behind the Museum of Art on the famous Philadelphia parkway. She was four feet seven inches and weighed 100 pounds.

Sergeant W. E. G. Petry of the Philadelphia police spent two days trying to identify the child who had been strangled and then raped according to the police.

The local press was silent on this and to date the police have not found any clues leading to the arrest and conviction of the person guilty of this dastardly crime.

The Negro Commission of the Communist Party of Philadelphia today issued the following statement:

MAY 24 1941

"The brutal murder and rape

indignation of all the white and Negro people of this city who are for the principle of the 'right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all American citizens.' This shameful act must not go unchallenged in this city. The guilty party or parties must be called to account."

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

MUSICIAN IS ACCUSED OF 8 ATTACKS ON GIRLS

Pennsylvania Police Tell of Admission in Long Questioning

LOCK HAVEN, Pa., Sept. 6 (AP)—Major Charles C. Keller of the State Police said today that a 21-year-old Bellefonte electrician and former orchestra leader had involved himself during twenty-four hours of questioning in attacks on eight Central Pennsylvania girls within a few months.

Major Keller said that District Attorney Musser Gettig of Centre County, where six of the attacks occurred, and District Attorney Burritt Haag of Clinton County, where two others took place, were planning to charge the youth with aggravated assault and battery.

Mr. Haag said the young musician first made statements admitting two Lock Haven attacks, the latest of which came on Thursday night and led to his apprehension.

This alleged attack was on Miss Ruth Andrews, 19, who was felled from behind, as were other girls assaulted on darkened streets of Lock Haven, Bellefonte, State College and Howard.

The wave of street sluggings of unescorted girls began soon after the Central Pennsylvania communities were shocked by the slayings of Rachel Taylor, a Penn State co-ed, and Fay Gates, an office clerk, who resided in Spook Hollow, near Bellefonte.

Richard Millinder, a neighbor of Miss Gates, was sentenced to life for her slaying. The Taylor murder never has been solved.

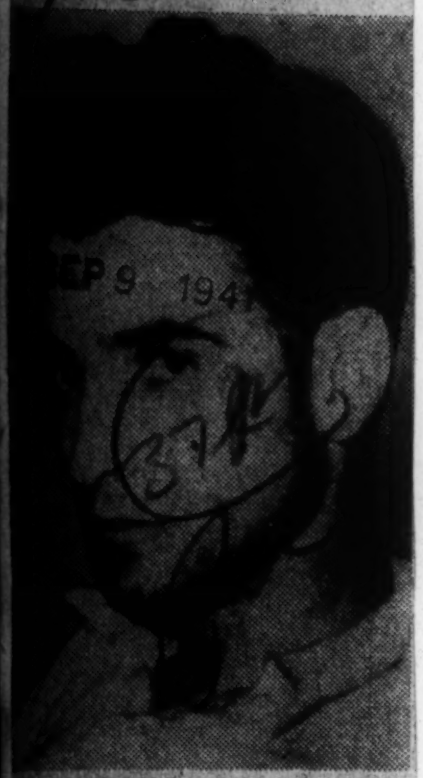
37m-1941

PENNSYLVANIA

6823

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Held in Attacks On Eight Women



Associated Press WIREPHOTO

HOY KENNETH HOUCK, 21-year-old former orchestra leader, charged with aggravated assault and battery, was held in Lock Haven, Pa., yesterday in connection with a series of attacks on eight young women. Police said Houck signed a statement admitting he slugged eight of the women.

SEP 9 1941

6824

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ASSAULT IS CHARGED BY HOUSE-MAID

JAN 11 1941

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Jan. 9—City police authorities were informed Tuesday by Julia Lee Blunt, young woman employed as housemaid in an exclusive residential section, that she was seized and criminally attacked by two white men while she was on her way home Monday evening.

She was waiting for a bus at Beverly Drive and Providence Road, she reported, when the men walked past her, proceeded a short distance and turning around, came back, pausing as if to cross the street, but instead, suddenly grabbed her by her coat and dragged her into an adjoining woods, one of them holding a hand over her mouth to prevent her making any outcry, at the same time warning her of dire consequences should she attempt to call help.

Following the assault, she was reported as stating, both assailants fled, one of them being in such haste that he dropped a pocketbook which he had previously forced her to turn over to him. Describing the two men as being roughly dressed she said she had never seen either of them before. She believed she could identify

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

RACE GIRLS ATTACKED BY WHITE MAN

COLUMBIA, S. C., Sept. 17—The rape of a 13-year-old girl last week by a white man and the beating of her 11-yearold sister has aroused the ire of Negro and white leaders in this area to such an extent that all Negro churches have raised a total of $310 to assist in legal action against the white culprit. The man has waived preliminary hearings and has reportedly entered a plea of guilty to all charges.

It all happened when the man lured the children into his car on the pretext that he could secure employment for them. He drove to a lonely country road and raped the older child. Later he beat the younger girl about the face. He made his escape but was later arrested by the police as the girls had the presence of mind to remember his license number. He was released after three days in jail on $3,000 bond.

The girl who was raped is still in the hospital where the true extent of her injuries has not been determined. She is an honor pupil in the Booker T. Washington high school.

Gary Paschal, outstanding attorney and member of the Columbia City Council has been retained by the churches as counsel for the prosecution.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

White Man Convicted of Attacking Girl, 14

COLUMBIA, S. C.—Credit for the conviction of George Surrat, white, accused of raping a 14-year-old colored girl here, goes to the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the ministers of the city, who in one day raised $375 to employ a lawyer to handle the case for the girl.

SEP 20 1941

The conviction came on September 12, when Gary Paschel, city councilman who was employed by the branch and the Inter-Denominational Alliance, assisted the city solicitor in prosecuting the case.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

RAISED FUNDS TO PROSECUTE CASE OF ASSAULT ON GIRL, 14

COLUMBIA, S. C., Sept. 25—Credit for the conviction of George Surrat, white, accused of raping a 14-year-old colored girl here, goes to the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the ministers of the city, who in one day raised $375 to employ a lawyer to handle the case for the girl.

SEP 27 1941

The conviction came on September 12, when Gary Paschel, city councilman, who was employed by the branch and the Inter-Denominational Alliance, assisted the City Solicitor in prosecuting the case.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Columbus, S. C., Negroes furnished added evidence of growing manhood of our people when the local N.A.A.C.P. and the city's ministers raised $375 in one short day to prosecute a white man who had assaulted a 14-year-old colored girl. He was convicted, too, which is news equal to a man biting a dog.

SEP 20 1941

YOU ARE LEARNING a lot about food costs, taxes, wages and public debt these days. Price Administrator Henderson tells us food costs have risen 8 per cent in the past month and are still going up. Wages have risen but 6 per cent since 1939. Nevertheless you will pay from two to three times more income tax next March than you did last March. All government, Federal, State and local, collected two billion in taxes in 1914, but will collect 15 billion in 1942. Taxes took 6 per cent of our national income in 1913. Now it takes 20 per cent. Then the Federal government owed one billion dollars. Today it owes fifty billion. It will soon owe 100 billion.

6825

37m-1941 TENNESSEE

Pittsburgh Courie:
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Young Woman Charges Assault By White Cop

37m

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Sept 4. (ANP)—The wanton raping of the daughter of a Methodist minister allegedy by a white policeman last Monday has aroused the colored populace of this city—much more so, since police officials treated the matter as insignificant and did not deign to make even a routine investigation.

Miss Catherine Ship, 22, daughter of the Rev. Walter Ship, was riding in an automobile with an escort on Pearson Street. The car stalled as the driver was seeking to turn around. A policeman, described as being a tall man with dark hair, drove up and cut in front of the car, thus preventing the driver from moving one way or another. Ordering the driver out of hte car, he hit him and then ordered him down the road.

Pulling his pistol, he threatened to kill Miss Ship if she resisted his efforts. After he finished, he remarked, "I heard that colored women were sweet—now I know it."

Turning to Miss Ship's escort, he ordered him not to start his car until he had driven away.

Promptly upon returning home, Miss Ship called the police, who in turn called Mother for investigate her charge, but told her to come to the police station the following morning.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Memphis Cop Drives Off Girl's Escort, Attacks Her

37m

SEP 10 1941

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — An alleged attack by a white policeman on Miss Catherine Ship, 22, daughter of the Rev. Walter Ship, Methodist minister, after driving her escort with whom she was riding in an auto from the scene on Pearson Street and threatening to kill her if she resisted, has aroused the population of this city.

His purpose accomplished under threat of death, he ordered Miss Ship's escort not to start the car until he had driven away and declared: "I had heard that colored women were sweet—now I know it." The girl called police immediately upon her return home, but they refused to investigate the matter.

15 Years Assessed In Assault Case

SEP 24 1941

37m

Robert Lee Fewox, 31-year-old former special police officer, was sentenced to 15 years in prison Tuesday by a jury that convicted him of criminal assault on his 13-year-old niece. Texas

Fewox was tried in the district court of Judge Frank Williford Jr. The jury retired at 10:30 a. m. and returned its verdict at 3:20 p. m.

The girl testified her uncle assaulted her on March 1 when she was spending the night with him and his wife at their home, 116 Crawford. SEP 24 1941

Mary Jane Fewox, 23, wife of the defendant, pleaded guilty last spring to a misdemeanor charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor in connection with the same case and served a 90-day jail sentance. Houston Post

Fewox, on the witness stand, denied he had molested the girl. The state was represented by Assistant District Attorneys Arnold Krichamer and Tom Ryan and the defense by Helmuth Romberg and John Duhig. Houston Texas

37m-1941

VIRGINIA

6827

6827

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Bedclothes Set Afire

37m Va

Fairfax Girl, Attacked, Burned By Masked Stranger on Farm

MAY 15 1941

A 16-year-old Fairfax County, Va., farm girl was in serious condition at Garfield Hospital last night with burns which she said were inflicted by a masked stranger who assaulted her and then set her bedclothing afire.

The girl, Daisy Kephart, fled from her home about 5 miles from Herndon to a neighbor, Mrs. Edgar Poole, and gave this account of the experience:

She was at home alone about 9 a. m. yesterday, her four younger brothers and sisters having gone to school and her mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Luther Kephart, having gone to jobs in the neighborhood.

She answered a knock at the back door and was confronted by a heavy man in green trousers and a sport shirt, the lower part of his face covered with a handkerchief. He demanded breakfast and she refused to comply.

MAY 15 1941

Thereupon the man forced his way into the kitchen. The girl tried to beat him back with a broom, but he took it away from her, dragged her into a bedroom, stripped off her clothing and attacked her.

Before he left, he set fire to the bedclothing with newspapers, saying, "I'm going to fix you so you'll never tell."

The girl managed to put out the blaze and go to Mrs. Poole's home nearby. They proceeded to the home of Mrs. Tulius Fleming, where there was a telephone, and assistance was called.

MAY 15 1941

Dr. E. C. [illegible] of Herndon, gave the girl first aid before she was taken to the hospital by the Herndon Rescue Squad.

They said she has improved since her arrival but still was in serious condition, with severe burns of the arms, thighs and back.

Fairfax County police commanded by Chief Carl McIntosh scoured the woods without success in a search for the masked man. Bloodhounds brought from Lorton Reformatory in charge of Capt. Paul Pegelow were put on the trail but later with-

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Huntsville, Ala., Times
July 10, 1941

Patterson Stands Pat On Lynching

Refuses To Change Listing Of Murder In North Carolina

Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of lynching credited to Gaston county, North Carolina, in the first six months of 1941 was "similar to positively recorded lynchings in other states in past years," and consequently no change in the classification "seems justified."

Patterson's statement, defending the classification of three lynchings listed for the first half of the year by the institute's Department of Records and Research, followed criticism in North Carolina newspapers and by William R. Johnson, negro consultant of the North Carolina Board of Charities and Public Welfare."

Both the newspapers and Johnson insisted that the crime was "murder", that it grew out of an argument on the scene between white men and a negro, and that the accused four white men now were serving prison terms, ranging from 14 to 25 years.

Johnson declared the Tuskegee statement "should be withdrawn or restated to record two lynchings (in Georgia and Florida), with the name of North Carolina omitted."

D. Paterson's statement follows in full:

"The attitude of North Carolina officials in punishing the offenders is most commendable and an indication of the high stand of that state for law and order. The same has no possible significance, however, in classification of crime. The Gaston incident conforms to the criteria agreed upon in the Tuskegee Institute conference on lynching. It has been confirmed by leading agencies and individuals concerned with lynching reports. It is similar to positively recorded lynchings in other states in past years. Consequently, no change in the statement as issued seems justified."

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 3, 1941

PROTEST STORY NEGRO LYNCHING

Tuskegee Institute Lists Death Of Robert Melker As Lynching; Facts Show Otherwise.

Executive Secretary Brice T. Dickson of Gastonia Chamber of Commerce said today he plans to immediately file a protest with the Tuskegee Institute, nationally famed Negro institution in Alabama, against the institute's action in listing the shooting of Robert Melker, 23-year-old Cherryville Negro farmer, in Gaston county last Easter Sunday, April 20, as a lynching.

Classification of Melker's death as a lynching by Tuskegee Institute, which semi-annually publishes a list of lynchings in the United States, was announced today in an Associated Press dispatch which went out over the nation. The dispatch read as follows:

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 3—(AP)—Three lynchings, one each in Georgia, Florida and North Carolina, were reported for the first six months of 1941 by Tuskegee Institute.

All of the victims were Negroes, it said, and T. R. Broady, assistant in research at the institute, listed the cases and circumstances including:

"1—April 20, Gaston county, near Cherryville, N. C., Robert Melker, Negro, charged with altercation with white men; shot to death in home by four men.

Secretary Dickson pointed out Melker's death could by no means be termed a lynching.

Melker was shot and killed as the result of a spontaneous argument with four white men, Graham and Haywood Dellinger, brothers, Robert Sellers and Fred Hudson. All but Sellers lived at Cherryville, Sellers living in Cleveland county.

Secretary Dickson pointed out testimony at the trial showed Melker was killed as the result of a spontaneous argument with these men. He asserted that Melker's death could by no stretch of the imagination be made to fit the generally-accepted conception of a lynching as a death that occurs when a mob or group of men take a defendant charged with a crime out of the hands of officers of the law, or get to him before the officers do in the event of an alleged crime, and execute him without due process of law.

He pointed out Melker was charged with no crime, and was killed as the result of a spontaneous argument. Further, Secretary Dickson recalled, Sheriff Clyde Robinson and his officers and the Cherryville police had the killers rounded up and under arrest within 24 hours and within 10 days they had been tried for killing Melker and sentenced to long penitentiary terms.

They were tried at the April criminal term of Gaston Superior Court before Judge Frank Armstrong who gave all of them except Graham Dellinger 18-to-25 years apiece. Dellinger was given 14-to-20 years, his sentence being somewhat lighter because he did not participate in the actual shooting, but were merely along with the others.

Secretary Dickson said he felt that Gaston county's record of not having had a lynching for an unbroken period of 60 years should not be besmirched by such a mistaken classification, which would result in nationwide unfavorable publicity through news stories and editorial comment based on the Tuskegee Institute's erroneous lynching report.

Secretary Dickson's protest will be lodged with T. A. Brady, assistant in the research department at Tuskegee, who made public the lynching report as carried in The Associated Press dispatch today.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
July 12, 1941

LYNCHING DEFINED BY THREE CRITERIA

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 11—(AP)—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said a 1940 conference on lynching here agreed upon the following criteria to be used in reporting such crimes:

"(1) Existence of dead body (corpus delicti); (2) Person or persons meeting death illegally by a group of three or more individuals; and (3) Said group acting under pretext of service to justice, race or tradition."

Dr. Patterson's explanation was issued in connection with a statement Thursday in which he said a lynching listed for North Carolina during the first half of 1941 was "similar to positively - recorded lynchings in other states in past years."

In view of this, Patterson said a change in classification did not seem justified, despite claims from North Carolina newspapers and others that the crime was a murder growing out of an argument on the spot. The perpetrators are all serving prison terms.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
July 12, 1941

TUSKEGEE GROUP SETS LYNCHING REPORT FORM

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 11 (AP).—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said a 1940 conference on lynching here agreed upon the following criteria to be used in reporting such crimes:

First, existence of dead body (corpus delicti); second, person or persons meeting death illegally by a group of three or more individuals, and third, said group acting under pretext of service to justice, race or tradition."

Dr. Patterson's explanation was issued in connection with a statement yesterday in which he said a lynching listed for North Carolina during the first half of 1941 was "similar to positively recorded lynchings in other states in past years."

In view of this, Patterson said a change in classification did not seem justified, despite claims from North Carolina newspapers and others that the crime was a murder growing out of an argument on the spot. The perpetrators are all serving prison terms.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
July 11, 1941

TUSKEGEE STICKS BY LYNCH REPORT

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 10—(AP)—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said Thursday a lynching credited to Gaston County, North Carolina, in the first six months of 1941 was "similar to positively recorded lynchings in other states in past years" and consequently no change in the classification "seems justified."

Patterson's statement, defending the classification of three lynchings listed for the first half of the year by the institute's department of records and research, followed criticism in North Carolina newspapers and by William R. Johnson, Negro consultant of the North Carolina Board of Charities and Public Welfare."

Both the newspapers and Johnson insisted that the crime was "murder," that it grew out of an argument on the scene between white men and a Negro, and that the accused four white men now were serving prison terms ranging from 14 to 25 years.

Johnson declared the Tuskegee statement "should be withdrawn or restated to record two lynchings (in Georgia and Florida) with the name of North Carolina omitted."

Wetumpka, Ala., Herald
July 3, 1941

3 Lynchings Reported For First Half Of '41

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2. — Tuskegee Institute reported today three lynchings in the first six months of 1941, one in each Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina.

All victims, it said, were negroes.

Details and specific locations were not given in individual cases in the press release issued by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president, but Monroe N. Work, chief of the institute's records and research department, said tonight they would be available when his office opened tomorrow.

"All of the persons lynched were negroes," said Patterson's release. "The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, one; stealing from employer, one; altercation with white man, one.

"The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Florida, one; Georgia, one; and North Carolina, one."

Fayetteville, Tenn., News
July 10, 1941

3 Lynchings Occurred During Past 6 Months

According to the information compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were three lynchings in the first six months of 1941.

All the persons lynched were negroes. The offences charged were: Attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1* altercation with white men, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1, and North Carolina, 1.

Covington, Tenn. Leader
July 3, 1941

THREE LYNCHINGS OCCUR

According to information compiled by the Tuskegee Institute there were three lynchings during the first six months of 1941. All three persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, one; stealing from employer, one; altercation with white man, one. The lynchings occurred in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina.

Burlington, N. C., Times-News
July 3, 1941

Three Lynchings, One In This State, Reported In Year

Tuskegee, Ala., July 3. —(AP)— Three lynchings, one each in Georgia, Florida and North Carolina, were reported for the first six months of 1941 by Tuskegee institute.

All of the victims were negroes, it said, and T. R. Broady, assistant in research at the institute, listed the cases and circumstances including:"

April 20, Gaston county, near Cherryville, N. C., Robert Melker, negro, charged with altercation with white men; shot to death in home by four men.

Lafayette, Ala., Sun
July 9, 1941

3 LYNCHINGS FIRST SIX MONTHS OF CURRENT YEAR

According to information complied at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research there were 3 lynchings in the first six months of 1941.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white men, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; and North Carolina, 1.

West Blocton, Ala., Enterprise
July 10, 1941

Lynching Record First Six Months

Dear Sir:

I send you the following statement concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the information compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were 3 lynchings in the first six months of 1941.

All the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white men, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; and North Carolina, 1.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON, President,
Tuskegee Institute.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
July 11, 1941

CAROLINA'S 'LYNCHING' WILL REMAIN ON RECORD

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 10 (AP).—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said today a lynching charged to Gaston county, North Carolina, in the first six months of 1941 was "similar to positively recorded lynchings in other states in past years" and consequently no change in the classification "seems justified."

Patterson's statement, defending the classification of three lynchings listed for the first half of the year by the institute's department of records and research, was challenged by North Carolina newspapers and by William R. Johnson, Negro consultant of the North Carolina board of charities and public welfare.

Both the newspapers and Johnson insisted that the crime was "murder," that it grew out of an argument on the scene between white men and a Negro, and that the accused four white men were serving prison terms ranging from fourteen to twenty-five years.

Johnson declared the Tuskegee statement "should be withdrawn or restated to record two lynchings (in Georgia and Florida) with the name of North Carolina omitted."

Hazlehurst, Ga., Cracker
July 3, 1941

Three Lynchings In Dixie During First Sixth Months

According to the Tuskegee Institute, Department of Information, there were only three lynchings in Dixie during the first six months of 1941, all negroes.

The offences charged were: Attempt to rape 1; stealing from employer 1; altercation with white man 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida 1; Georgia 1; and North Carolina 1.

Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
July 5, 1941

Three Lynchings Reported in First Half of This Year

Tuskegee, Ala. (AP). — Three lynchings, one each in Georgia, Florida and North Carolina, were reported for the first six months of 1941 by Tuskegee Institute.

All of the victims were negroes, it said, and T. R. Broady, assistant in research at the institute, listed the cases and circumstances including:

"1—April 20, Gaston county, near Cherryville, N. C., Robert Melker, Negro, charged with altercation with white man; shot to death in home by four men.

High Point, N. C. Enterprise
July 3, 1941

THREE LYNCHINGS THUS FAR REPORTED IN SOUTH

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 3. — (AP) — Three lynchings, one each in Georgia, Florida and North Carolina, were reported for the first six months of 1941 by Tuskegee Institute.

All of the victims were negroes it was said, and T. R. Broady, assistant in research at the institute listed the cases and circumstances including:

"1—April 20, Gaston county, near Cherryville, N. C., Robert Melker, negro, charged with altercation with white men; shot to death in home by four men.

Cordele, Ga. Dispatch
July 2, 1941

Three Lynchings In First Six Months

Lynchings recorded in the first six months of the year in the United States total three, the Tuskegee Institute of Alabama announces.

One of these lynchings occurred in Georgia, another in Forida, and one in North Carolina.

Offenses charged were: Attempted rape, stealing from employer, and altercation with a white man.

Cochran, Ga., Journal
July 3, 1941

THREE LYNCHINGS SO FAR THIS YEAR

In a report from F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, upon lynchings for the first six months of 1941 it is noted that of the 3 occuring, 1 was in Florida, 1 in Georgia, and 1 in North Carolina. All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charges were attempted rape, stealing from employer and altercation with white men.

Star of Zion
Charlotte, N. C.

When Is A Lynching?

Various authorities and editors from Gaston County to the Governor of the State of North Carolina have vigorously protested the recent report of Tuskegee Institute, which designated the killing of Robert Milker, near Gastonia, last April 13, as a lynching. Even after this protest had been sent to Dr. Patterson, the latter issued a statement in which he set forth that the killing fitted into the criterion of a lynching as established through the years and, therefore, the report could not be changed.

This sort of a controversy is exactly what we anticipated would arise, because theories and practices of lynching have changed within recent years. Governor Broughton said: "I think the classification of the case as a lynching was unjust and out of keeping with what I understand a lynching to be." He added, "A lynching is the action of a mob which seeks to replace the due course of justice by taking a person from the hands of the law, or anticipating the law by taking a person before he is duly arrested."

The Star of Zion, which has been published in North Carolina for 65 years, is proud of the fine progress that has been made in race relations in the state, and the added fact that for many years no lynching has occurred within the state. And, as much as we regret to acknowledge the fact, it seems to us that by the governor's own definition Tuskegee Institute is justified in making the classification. The only possible doubt would be on the point of what constitutes a mob. The research department of Tuskegee says, "three or more."

General Mecklenburg, writing in the Charlotte Observer, says that Milker was killed by one man, but in the same statement admits that all four of the participants were convicted and are now serving sentences for the killing.

Again insisting that we would like very much to have this blot removed from the record of North Carolina, we also call attention to the fact that if the four youths who committed the murder had not gone away after the first altercation, and then returned, deliberately and concertedly to kill their victim, there could have been no justification whatsoever in designating them as a "mob" and their deed as a "lynching." But the unfortunate fact is true, and, notwithstanding Gaston County and the State of North Carolina deserve much credit for meting out quick justice to the perpetrators of the crime, it seems only in accordance therewith to us that we should not allow our pride to blind our eyes to the facts. It is undoubtedly a marginal case, which raises questions, which we are not prepared to answer fully. But if Tuskegee Institute reports have been valuable and trustworthy in the past, it is believed they have been based upon facts as established by a definite group of criteria, which experience has produced. Until the rules have been changed, we cannot justifiably blame a classification strictly

The Northwest Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

Lynch Record, 1941

There were 3 lynchings in the first six months of 1941. All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white men, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; and North Carolina, 1.

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Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
July 3, 1941

Silliness Into Lynch Statistics

The eradication of lynching in the South will not be served by any such broadening of the definition of the term to include such a murder, already sternly punished, as has been put down in this year's statistics against North Carolina's name as one of the three lynchings of the year in the United States.

This murder, which took place in Gaston County last April, can only by distortion be called a lynching. Its description as a lynching makes all other killings everywhere, so classified, suspect as to their true character. Its listing as a lynching does a serious injustice to the Southern State which has had fewer true lynchings across all the years than any other.

Here was a case in which four white hoodlums in the town of Cherryville went on a rampage in which they killed a Negro man. There was absolutely no feeling in the community against the Negro. He was merely the victim of a bunch of drunks. Within 24 hours all of the four white men were arrested and in jail. Within 10 days they had been tried and sentenced to long terms in the penitentiary. The killers, as the State's own courts held, were unquestionable criminals, but they represented only their own drunken violence and reflected the feeling of no part of the community but themselves.

No decent North Carolinian would think of trying to defend these four drunken toughs who picked a fight with an innocent colored man and killed him as a part of it. But North Carolina does resent having their crime listed as a lynching against the name of the State or against the community in the State which promptly demonstrated its stern disapproval by sending two of the white men to prison for from 18 to 25 years and two, one of whom who took no part in the shooting, to prison for from 14 to 20 years.

Calling such a case a lynching will not help eliminate lynchings but it will help to destroy the value of these lynching statistics in the propaganda against lynching in the South and everywhere else. Undoubtedly it may be true, as some Negro leaders say, that lynchings may be done by smaller groups than old roaring mobs. A few men, of course, could do the violent will of an angered community in resorting to extra-legal measures in snatching defendants from the law and putting them to death. The numbers of the killers is not the essence of definition. Nor is it essential that the victim be a supposed perpetrator of a crime. There may be true lynchings which do not fit old-fashioned definitions. But one of the absolute essentials of any definition is commonsense. In this case that has been absolutely disregarded and the result is not so much an injury to Gaston County and North Carolina as it is a blow to the sense and reliability of lynching statistics.

Despite the Tuskegee annoncement, no lynching took place in North Carolina during the period covered by this report. Far otherwise, what did happen was a demonstration that white justice in this State is ready to move sternly and swiftly against rough-neck white roisterers who resort to murderous violence against a Negro. For the friends of the Negro to use this case to stigmatize the State rather than praise it indicates that silliness has taken the place of sense in their statistics. As long as this case is listed among their statistics their value will be reduced and the whole process of effective protest against true lynchings will be delayed.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
July 4, 1941

Gaston County Leaders Resent Report Listing Murder Of Negro As Lynching

Special to The Observer.

GASTONIA, July 3—Gaston officials and civic leaders expressed keen resentment at the semi-annual report sent out today from Tuskeege Institute in Alabama chargin Gaston county with one of three lynchings catalogued by that institution during the last six months.

Negro leaders of the county were as much surprised as were the white leaders at the charge made against this county by the leading Negro institution in the South. Over a long period of years, it is pointed out, the listing of lynchings by Tuskeegee has been accepted by the public as entirely reliable and at least semi-official.

The alleged lynching in Gaston is thus chronicled in the Tuskeegee report:

"April 20, Gaston county, near Cherryville, N. C., Robert Melker, Negro, charged with altercation with man; shot to death in home by four white men."

Evidence at the trial at the April term of Gaston superior court, Judge Frank Armstrong presiding, showed that Melker was shot and killed as the result of a spontaneous argument with four white men, Graham and Haywood Dellinger, brothers, Robert Sellers and Fred Hudson, all of Cherryville, except Sellers who lived in Cleveland county. Evidence was that the men were drunk at the time.

HAD ARGUMENT.

Testimony at their trial showed that the four white men became embroiled in an argument with Melker and his wife after they had shouted an insulting remark at Melker as they rode by in a car. Melker was walking along the road in front of his home.

A rock fight ensued, with the white men and the Melker family throwing rocks at each other. One of the white men, Robert Sellers, was slightly wounded when Melker's mother, Eliza Melker, fired upon the white men with a shotgun and drove them away.

The white men went away, obtained two shotguns and came back within an hour or so with Hudson driving and Graham Dellinger in the front seat too drunk to know what was going on or to participate in the shooting. Melker came out of the house carrying a shotgun, but before he ever had a chance to use it he was shot and killed by a volley from the back of the car in which Haywood Dellinger and Graham Dellinger were riding.

The generally-accepted conception of a lynching, a view shared by local officials, is that it the result of a mob or group of men taking the law in their own hands and killing a defendant accused of a crime, either after they have taken him away from officers, or by getting to him before he is taken into custody.

NOT A LYNCHING.

The Melker killing, while brutal and cold-blooded, could not by any wild stretch of the imagination, say local leaders, be termed a lynching. Melker was not accused of any crime and was killed as the result of a spontaneous argument.

To the credit of Sheriff Clyde Robinson and the Cherryville police, it is a matter of record that the killers were rounded up and arrested within 24 hours and within 10 days after the killing had been tried and sentenced to long penitentiary terms.

Judge Frank Armstrong gave Sellers, Hudson and Haywood Dellinger, 18-to-25 years each in the penitentiary, and gave Graham Dellinger 14 to 20 years. They are now serving their sentences.

There is not the slightest reason say officials and local citizens, why Gaston county, which executed its duty in arresting and punishing these defendants with more than usual promptness, should be held up before the nation through this action, reported over the nation by this Associated Press dispatch, as a county which has permitted a lynching. Its officers and courts performed their duty promptly and efficiently. It is an injustice to Gaston county which, if not corrected, will result in nation-wide adverse publicity in news stories and editorial comment over the nation, local leaders asserted.

NEGRO LEADER'S VIEWS.

Dr. Henry C. McDowell, president of Lincoln academy, widely known school for Negroes situated near Gastonia, and a recognized leader of the Negro race not only in Gaston county but throughout a much wider territory, told The Observer correspondent this afternoon that neither he nor any other Negro leaders in the county had at any time considered this killing as a lynching.

"It was," said Dr. McDowell, "a brutal, cold-blooded murder and we lamented the crime very deeply. We were pleased with the promptness with which the law enforcement officers moved, placing the criminals behind bars within 24 hours, and in the speed with which they were tried and sentenced."

Asked if he had any knowledge of Tuskeegee Institute sending a representative here or in any manner whatever investigating the Melker killing, Dr. McDowell stated that so far as he knew nothing of the kind had been done.

Gaston is one of the few counties in the State which has a functioning unit of the State Interracial commission. It is composed of both Negroes and whites. Dr. Thomas H. McDill, pastor of the First Associate Reformed Presbyterian church, is president of the unit. He could not be contacted today but other members of the organization voiced the opinion that a meeting of the council will be called within the next few days to consider this report of the Tuskeegee Institute.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
July 3, 1941

Three Negro Lynchings So Far During Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2 (AP)—Tuskegee Institute reported today three lynchings in the first six months of 1941, one each in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina.

All victims, it said, were Negroes. Details and specific locations were not given.

Tocoa, Ga., Record
July 3, 1941

Three Are Lynched In Nation During First Half of 1941

During the first six months of 1941, there were three lynchings recorded in the United States, according to F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute. All of those slain by mob violence were Negroes.

Offenses charged were attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white men, 1. One lynching occurred in Florida, one in Georgia and one in North Carolina, the report said.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
July 3, 1941

3 Lynchings Reported For Past Six Months

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 3.—(AP) Three lynchings, one each in Georgia, Florida and North Carloina, were reported for the first six months of 1941 by Tuskegee Institute.

All of the victims were Negroes, it was said, and T. R. Broady, assistant in research at the institute, listed the cases and circumstances thus:

"1. April 20, Gaston county, near Cherryville, N. C., Robert Melker, Negro, charged with altercation with white men; shot to death in home by four men.

"2. May 6, Blakely, Early county, Georgia, Robert Sapp, Negro, suspected of stealing from his employer; flogged with a club and piece of machine belting.

"3. May 13, Quincy, Gadsden county, Florida, A. C. Williams, Negro, charged with attempted rape upon 12-year-old white girl; beaten and body riddled with bullets."

Columbia, S. C. State
July 3, 1941

Three Lynchings Listed By Tuskegee Institute.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 3—(AP)—Three lynchings, one each in Georgia, Florida and North Carolina, were reported for the first six months of 1941 by Tuskegee Institute.

All of the victims were Negroes, it said, and T. R. Broady, assistant in research at the Institute, listed the cases and circumstances thus:

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"3—May 13, Quincy, Gadsden county, Florida, A. C. Williams, Negro, charged with attempted criminal assault upon 12-year-old white girl; beaten and body riddled with bullets."

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
July 3, 1941

THREE LYNCHINGS LISTED IN SOUTH

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2—(AP)—Tuskegee Institute reported Wednesday three lynchings in the first six months of 1941, one each in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina.

All victims, it said, were Negroes.

Details and specific locations were not given in individual cases in the press release issued by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president, but Monroe N. Work, chief of the institute's records and research department said Wednesday night they would be available when his office opened Thursday.

"All of the persons lynched were Negroes," said Patterson's release.

The offenses charged were. attempted criminal assault, one; stealing from employer, one; altercation with white man, one.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, one; Georgia, one; and North Carolina, one," the report said.

3 Lynchings Six Months, 1941

To the Editor of The State:

I send you the following statement concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the information compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of Records and research that there were three lynchings in the first six months of 1941.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, one; stealing from employer, one; altercation with white men, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, one; Georgia, one, and North Carolina, one.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President, Tuskegee Institute.

Montezuma, Ga., Georgian
July 3, 1941

Three Lynchings So Far This Year

In a report from F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, upon lynchings for the first six months of 1941 it is noted that of the 3 occurring, 1 was in Florida, 1 in Georgia and 1 in North Carolina. All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charges were attempted rape, stealing from employer and altercation with white men.

NEGRO DISPUTES LYNCHING FIGURE

William R. Johnson Says Tuskegee Erred in Crediting State With Lynching

William R. Johnson, Negro consultant of the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare and a recognized leader among his race, yesterday issued a statement challenging sharply the action of Tuskegee Institute in classifying as a lynching a murder which occurred in Gaston County last April.

Declaring the incident reflected credit [illegible] the State, Johnson added:

"To hold North Carolina up for ridicule in this instance serves neither the State nor Negroes anywhere."

The statement follows in full:

Lynchings Decrease.

"It is interesting to note that lynchings in the United States have decreased, and that during the first six months of 1941 only three were recorded by Tuskegee Institute. In reality, there were only two. The third, recorded as having occurred in North Carolina, is a misnomer. The incident in Gaston County was a deliberate murder, and as was pointed out by The Raleigh News and Observer, the perpetrators are now serving sentences ranging from 14 to 25 years. The court record stands for itself. In this case the ends of justice have been met. It indicates that here in North Carolina a premium is placed upon human life, regardless of race, creed or color. This is just the thing for which Negroes have fought throughout the years, and we hope that the example set by North Carolina will be followed by other states.

"Over a period of years we have criticized Negroes who live North of the Mason-Dixon line for unfair criticism of the South. We realize that there are conditions everywhere which need improvement, and here in North Carolina Negroes do not fail to point them out, and work toward the eradication of the same. In this case, statistics are compiled in another Southern state, by an institution for the training of Negroes, which makes the assertion in the Gaston County case even ridiculous. Statistics are all right, and can prove much when backed by facts. I would suggest that from now on, when any institution desiring to maintain the confidence of the people everywhere, that it make sure of the facts before publication.

"To hold North Carolina up for ridicule in this instance, serves neither the State nor Negroes anywhere. We do not claim a state of perfection here by any means, but those nurtured in this soil and who have grown up with the State, know that we have come a long way in the development of race relations at work.

"North Carolina is neither north nor south. In hundreds of instances, it stands out as a beacon light in Negro progress and states neither North nor South can boast with such facts and actualities to back this statement. We must recall here, the statement by P. B. Young, editor of The Norfolk Journal and Guide, and a native North Carolinian, that 'the United States is divided into three parts, the north, the south and North Carolina'

"We invite inquiry relative to happenings in North Carolina, whether they be good or bad, and stand ready always to present the facts.

"The Tuskegee statement should be withdrawn or restated to record two lynchings and the name of North Carolina omitted."

Should Be Correction

The report of the Tuskegee Institute recording the murder of a Negro in Gaston County last April as a lynching has been repudiated by William R. Johnson, Negro consultant of the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare.

This repudiation cannot be dismissed on the ground that it reflects State pride. It is true that the author is both a resident of North Carolina and a State employe. But neither he nor the Negroes of this State for whom he speaks have ever been hesitant in both admitting and denouncing any injustice to members of their race.

But the most important feature of this repudiation of the Tuskee report is that it is based upon undisputable facts.

Not only did the killing in Gaston County lack all of the elements of a lynching, those who did the killing have been punished and punished severely.

This kind of silliness in statistics defeats the very aims of those who wish to eradicate the horrible crime of lynching. If every murder of a Negro is to be termed a lynching for no earthly reason except that it was committed by a white man, the whole point of the warfare upon lynching is lost. Once the impression is gained that statistics relating to lynchings are unreliable such statistics lose all value. Such an impression is inescapable on the part of those who know the facts in connection with the Gaston County killing. Moreover, inclusion of this murder in the list of lynchings places Tuskegee Institute in the unenviable position of holding up to shame the State of North Carolina for an occurrence for which the State, because of the prompt and effective action of its courts, deserves the praise rather than the blame of all friends of the Negro race and all foes of lynching.

Both for the sake of its own reputation for accuracy and for the sake of the cause which it espouses, Tuskegee Institute should correct promptly its list of lynchings for the first six months of 1941.

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Both for the sake of its own reputation for accuracy and for the sake of the cause which it espouses, Tuskegee Institute should correct promptly its list of lynchings for the first six months of 1941.

37n(1)-1941

6802

Three Lynched First Six Months In 1941

ONE PERSON EACH IN GEORGIA, FLORIDA AND N. CAROLINA

JUL 3 1941

Meets Death At Hands Of Mobs

Tuskegee, Ala., July 1.—According to information released today by President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute, gathered through the department of records and research of that institution, there were three lynchings in the first six months of 1941.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white men 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; and North Carolina, 1.

Savannah Tribune

37n(1)

Savannah Ga.

JUL 3 1941

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Three Lynched First 3 Months

There were three lynchings during the first six months of 1941, according to information compiled in the Tuskegee Institute Department of Records and Research and released this week by President F. D. Patterson.

37n(1)

All the persons lynched were Negroes. One each was lynched in Georgia, Florida and North Carolina. The offenses charged were attempted rape, stealing from employer and altercation with white men.

The Lynching Record for 1941.

JUL 6 - 1941

Three lynchings for the first six months of 1941 are recorded by Tuskegee Institute in a communication which appears in today's Voice of the People from PRESIDENT PATTERSON of the institute, but vigorous demurrers already are being entered to North Carolina to one of them. Informed Tar Heels are protesting that the killing of a Negro in Gaston County April 13 by four white youths, following a rock battle, was not a lynching. The four white youths are now serving terms from 14 to 25 years.

Richmond 37n(1)

There seems to be something in the argument of the North Carolinians. Admittedly there are borderline cases which under one definition will be termed a "lynching" and under another will be bracketed as a "murder." Taking everything into consideration, the killing under notice impresses us as more properly placed in the latter category. There was nothing remotely resembling a mob anywhere in the picture.

Last December the Commission on Interracial Relations, the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People held a joint conference at Tuskegee, which was attended by other Southern leaders, for the purpose of arriving at a definition of lynching which would be satisfactory to all. Apparently complete agreement was never reached, for the N. A. A. C. P., which usually has operated under a broader definition than the other two bodies, published a definition soon afterward in its annual report for 1940 which differed from that carried in the *Southern Frontier*, the organ of the two Southern interracial agencies.

The N. A. A. C. P. termed a lynching "an activity in which persons in defiance of law administer punishment by death to an individual for an alleged offense or to an individual with whom some offense has been associated." But the Commission on Interracial Co-operation says a lynching is the killing of a person "by a group acting under the pretext of service to justice, race or tradition."

The classification of the North Carolina killing as a lynching by Tuskegee indicates that something nearer the N. A. A. C. P. definition, rather than the Interracial Commission definition, was used in this particular instance. This seems a mistake, for the N. A. A. C. P. definition is too broad. Can't it be interpreted as placing in the lynching category any homicide in which two men kill another? Such a sweeping and all-inclusive use of the term impresses one as utterly unscientific. Moreover, how is one to avoid counting scores of gang killings in the North as lynchings, under its terms?

JUL 6 - 1941

Actually, then, it would appear that only two genuine lynchings have occurred below the Potomac during the first six months of 1941. If the second half of the year can be kept clean of this stain, and Tuskegee can be persuaded not to count the Carolina killing, it will be the best year in the South's postbellum history. The best previous record was for 1939, when Tuskegee reported only three lynch victims. There were five in 1940.

Tuskegee Lynching Report Is Disputed

RALEIGH, N. C.—(AP)—William R. Johnson, Negro consultant of the North Carolina Board of Charities and Public Welfare, has challenged the action of Tuskegee Institute in attributing a lynching to Gaston County, North Carolina.

The institute recently reported three lynchings had occurred in the United States in the first half of the year and the death of a Gaston County Negro last April was included in the list.

"The incident in Gaston County was a deliberate murder," declared Johnson, "and the perpetrators are now serving sentences ranging from 14 to 25 years. The court record stands for itself."

"In this case," Johnson said, "the ends of justice have been met. It indicates that here in North Carolina a premium is placed upon human life, regardless of race, creed or color. This is just the thing for which Negroes have fought throughout the years, and we hope that the examples set by North Carolina will be followed by other states."

The Tuskegee statement, Johnson asserted, "should be withdrawn or restated to record two lynchings with the name of North Carolina omitted."

The Lynching Record

Editor of the Times-Dispatch:

JUL 5 1941

Sir,—I send you the following statement concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the information compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research that there were three lynchings in the first six months of 1941.

Richmond

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white men, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1, and North Carolina, 1.

7/6/41 37n(1)

F. D. PATTERSON,
President.

Tuskegee, Ala.

JUL 6 - 1941

[The foregoing letter is commented upon today, under the caption, "The Lynching Record for 1941."—Editor.]

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS, 1941

Southern Advocate
Iron Mound, Bayou, Miss.

According to the information compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were 3 lynchings in the first six months of 1941.

JUL 5 1941

37n(1)

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attemped rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white men, 1.

JUL 5 1941

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Flordia, 1; Georgia, 1; and North Carolina, 1.

The Daily Herald
Gulfport, Miss.
July 2, 1941

THREE LYNCHINGS DURING FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1941

Only three lynchings of negroes occurred in the Southern states during the first six months of 1941, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute and released for publication today.

Mississippi was not one of the states where lynchings occurred, they being Florida, 1; Georgia, 1 and North Carolina, 1. The crimes with which the victims of mob violence were charged were reportedly attempted criminal assault, stealing from an employer and an altercation with a white man.

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
July 3, 1941

Three Lynchings Reported

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—(AP)—Tuskegee Institute reported Wednesday three lynchings in the first six months of 1941, one each in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina. All victims were negroes.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
July 3, 1941

3 LYNCHINGS NAMED

Tuskegee Institute Report is Released

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2.—(AP): Tuskegee institute reported today three lynchings in the first six months of 1941, one in each Florida, Georgia and North Carolina.

All victims, it said, were negoes.

Details and specific locations were not given in individual cases in the three release issued by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president.

"All of the persons lunch were negroes," said Patterson's release. "The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white man, 1."

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
July 3, 1941

HREE NEGRO LYNCHINGS REPORTED BY INSTITUTE

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2—(AP)—Tuskegee institute reported today three lynchings in the first six months of 1941, one in each Florida, Georgia and North Carolina.

All victims, it said, were Negroes.

Details and specific locations were not given in individual cases in the release issued by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president.

"All of the persons lynched were Negroes," said Patterson's release. "The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white man, 1."

6802

Florence, S. C., Morning News
July 3, 1941

REPORT ON LYNCHINGS

Tuskegee Institute reported three lynchings in the first six months of 1941, one in each Florida, Georgia and North Carolina.

All victims, it said, were negroes.

Details and specific locations were not given in individual cases in the three release issued by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president.

"All of the persons lynched were negroes," said Patterson's relase. "The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white man, 1."

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

What Is A Lynching?

THE Tuskegee Institute research department's report on the lynching record for the first six months of 1941 lists three, one of which is charged to Gaston County, North Carolina. The Carolina press and the Gastonia chamber of commerce have put in a disclaimer, designating the Gaston County affair as a "murder" instead of a "lynching." Their explanation is that four white men, under the influence of liquor, attacked and killed a colored man, for which crime the white men are now serving terms of from 14 to 20 years in the penitentiary. Therefore, there was no lynching.

Such information as the Journal and Gudie has on the episode is that the colored man had an altercation with one white man, who later got three of his friends and returned to the original scene and the four of them killed the colored man. Under our Virginia law, if the circumstances are as stated, this would seem to constitute a lynching. We quote the Virginia statute:

> Section 4427c. **Mobs and lynching defined.** A collection of people, assembled for the purpose and with the intention of committing an assault and or battery upon any person and without authority of law, shall be deemed a "mob" for the purpose of this act; and any act of violence by a "mob" upon the body of any person, which shall result in the death of such person, shall constitute a "lynching" within the meaning of this act.

The Minnesota statutes say that "lynching is the killing of a human being by the act or procurement of a mob."

None of the state laws have undertaken to establish a minimum of persons necessary to constitute a mob. On this point, however, The Southern Commission for the Study of Lynching sent a questionnaire several years ago to a number of persons in important legal and judicial positions. The question was: "Should a numerical minimum of persons necessary to constitute a mob be included (in a statutory definition of lynching). If so, what number?"

There were 191 answers. Eighty-one answered yes; 102, no; and eight were undecided. Minimum numbers suggested in the affirmative answers were, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 50. So it appears, on the basis of sound opinion, that four persons may constitute a mob, and a killing by these four persons may constitute a lynching.

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The North Carolina papers and the Gastonia chamber of commerce are apparently going on the assumption that every lynching is more or less a "legal" affair, with community approval, and that no members of a mob are ever apprehended or punished. The Gaston County killers were apprehended, tried, convicted and imprisoned, therefore there was no lynching, according to the Carolina reasoning. But it would seem that there was a lynching—that is, if there was a premeditated "collecting" of a group of four for the purpose of committing an act of violence upon the colored man subsequent to an altercation between him and one of the quartet of killers.

What the North Carolinians get out of it is credit for having apprehended and punished the members of a mob which besmirched the community with a lynching.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Tuskegee Head Firm On Carolina 'Lynching'

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—(AP)—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said Thursday a lynching laid to Gaston County, North Carolina, in the first six months of 1941 was "similar to positively recorded lynchings in other states in past years" and consequently no change in the classification "seems justified."

Patterson's statements defending the classification of [illegible] lynchings listed for the first half of the year by the institute's department of records and research, followed criticism in North Carolina newspapers and by William R. Johnson, Negro consultant of the North Carolina Board of Charities and Public Welfare."

Both the newspapers and Johnson insisted the crime was "murder;" that it grew out of an argument on the scene between white men and a Negro, and that the accused four white men now were serving prison terms ranging from 14 to 25 years.

Johnson declared the Tuskegee statement "should be withdrawn or restated to record two lynchings (in Georgia and Florida) with the name of North Carolina omitted."

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Says 'Skegee Erred In Lynching Report

RALEIGH—(A N P)—The action of Tuskegee Institute in classifying as a lynching a murder which occurred in Gaston county last April was challenged by William R. Johnson, consultant of the state board of charities and public welfare, in a statement issued Wednesday.

Johnson pointed out that lynchings in the United States have decreased and that of the three recorded by Tuskegee for the first six months of 1941, one of them was erroneously reported. Crediting North Carolina with what the files show to be a deliberate murder, "serves neither the state nor Negroes anywhere," Johnson said.

The men accused of the murder which Tuskegee listed as a lynching are now serving jail sentences which means, the educator said that "here in North Carolina a premium is placed upon human life.... We do not claim a state of perfection here by any means, but those nurtured in this soil and who have grown up with the state, know that we have come a long way in the development of race relations at work."

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

1941 Record Marred By Three Lynchings

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 10—The Tuskegee Institute Department of Records and Research reports that there were 3 lynchings during the first six months of this year. In a release signed by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president, is revealed that all the persons lynched were Negroes and the offenses charged were: 1 attempted rape; stealing from employer and altercation with white men. One lynching is recorded for each of the following states: Florida, Georgia and North Carolina.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Tuskegee Errs On Lynchings, Educator Says

RALEIGH, N. C. (ANP)—The action of Tuskegee Institute in classifying as a lynching a murder which occurred in Gaston County, last April, was challenged by William R. Johnson, consultant of the state board of charities and public state board of statement issued last week.

Johnson pointed out that lynchings in the United States have decreased, and that of the three recorded by Tuskegee for the first six months of 1941, one of them was erroneously reported. Crediting North Carolina with what the files show to be a deliberate murder, "serves neither the state nor Negroes anywhere," he said.

Men Jailed

The men accused of the murder which Tuskegee listed as a lynching are now serving jail sentences, which means, the educator said, that "here in North Carolina a premium is placed upon human life."

"We do not claim a state of perfection here by any means, but those nurtured in this soil, and who have grown up with the state, know that we have come a long way in the development of race relations at work."

He concluded, "The Tuskegee statement should be withdrawn or restated to record two lynchings and the name of North Carolina omitted."

—A Colored Judge—

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Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

N. C. Lynching To Remain On Tuskegee List

B7n(1)

Dr. Patterson Praises Fairness Shown By State

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—While paying tribute to the state of North Carolina for its splendid record in interracial relations and for its speedy trial and conviction of four men who shot Robert Melker to death in Gaston County, N. C. near Cherryville, on Easter of this year, Dr. Frederick D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, has steadfastly declined to revise Tuskegee Institute's classification of the incident as a lynching, one of three recorded for the first six months of 1941 by Tuskegee in conjunction with two other agencies interested in lynching eradication.

JUL 26 1941

In a series of communications withoutstanding colored and white leaders in North Carolina, who protested the blight on the name of the state, Dr. Patterson reviewed the machinery with which lynchings are determined and pointed out that the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People concurred in the decision.

JUL 26 1941

JEALOUS OF GOOD NAME

Protests from liberal North Carolina have flooded the Tuskegee president's office since the lynching statistics were released July 1. The Tar Heel State, which for many years has been the leading Southern state in interracial relations, has seldom had a lynching and the proud citizens of the state are jealous of the good name the commonwealth has enjoyed in this respect, the letters revealed.

The press of North Carolina as well as private white and Negro citizens have charged that the death of Robert Melker, who was shot and killed by four men because he resented insulting remarks made to his bride of one week, was not a lynching. Carolinians contend that it was a private altercation involving only the five men concerned, that the killers did not have the support or the sympathy of the whites of the community, that the offenders were indicted, convicted, and sentenced to long prison terms on charges of second degree murder, and that the slaying did not have the character of mob action or of typical Southern lynchings.

SIMILAR CASES

In answering all of these protests, Dr. Patterson called attention to the fact that the man was slain by more than three white men because he resented insulting remarks made to his wife. This is one of the criteria by which lynchings are determined. He praised the state for the punishment it meted out to the criminals but pointed out that other states had been credited with lynchings under similar circumstances and to make an exception in the case of North Carolina, would be unfair to the other states and would call for extensive revisions of lynching statistics of other years.

He declared that the race appreciated the stand the officials took but averred that the manner in which justice was meted out could not influence the proper classification of the crime.

Dr. Patterson said that last year the NAACP, of which Walter White is secretary, the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, of which Mrs. Jessie D. Ames is executive director, and Tuskegee conferred on the matter of lynchings and came to definite conclusions about the manner of determining lynchings. All of the facts in the Melker case, asserted the Tuskegee president, were turned over to the officials of the two other groups and Mrs. Ames and the NAACP both concurred in the decision to classify the Gaston killing as a lynching.

NO C[illegible] 26 1941

The Tuskegee president said that the Institute's research department had always made it a policy not to comment on lynchings but to merly publish the list. He said that he felt it advisable to stand back of the original record and not alter it in favor of a particular state.

Dr. Patterson exchanged communication with the following people, among others: President C. C. Spaulding, of the North Carolina Life Insurance Company, Durham, N. C.; James W. Atkins, of the Gastonia Daily Gazette, Gastonia, N. C.; H. Galt Braxton, editor, of the Kinston Daily Free Press, Kinston, N. C.; and the Journal and Guide.

Ashland, Ala. Progress
July 17, 1941

Lynching Record For First Six Months

A letter from F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, regarding lynchings in the United States during the first six months of this year, is as follows:

I find according to the information compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were 3 lynchings in the first six months of 1941.

All the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white men, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, Georgia and North Carolina, 1 each.

Savannah, Ga. News
July 3, 1941

THREE LYNCHINGS IN FIRST SIX MONTHS

Tuskegee Institute President Announces Record

President F. D. Patterson, of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, has made his statement about lynchings for the first six months of 1941.

He reports that the Tuskegee Institute department of records and research shows there were three lynchings, all of the victims being negroes. The offenses charged against them were: Attempted criminal assault, one; stealing from employer, one; altercation with white men, one.

The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state, are declared in the report to be: Florida, one; Georgia, one; North Carolina, one.

Elberton, Ga., Star
July 4, 1941

Three Negroes Lynched First 6 Months of 1941

"I send you statement concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year," writes F. D. Patterson, President Tuskegee Institute. "I find according to the information compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were 3 lynchings in the first six months of 1941.

"All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white men, 1.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; North Carolina, 1."

Lumpkin, Ga., Stewart-Webster Jnl.
July 10, 1941

West Palm Beach, Fla. Post
July 3, 1941

Sandersville, Ga., Progress
July 3, 1941

Jacksonville, Ala., Record
July 11, 1941

Carnesville, Ga., Herald
July 10, 1941

Ashland, Ala. Progress
July 17, 1941

Fitzgerald, Ga., Herald
July 4, 1941

Homer, Ga., Journal
July 18, 1941

Pennington Gap, Va., News
July 24, 1941

Newbern, Tenn. Tennessean
July 10, 1941

St. Matthews, S. C., Times
July 10, 1941

Wauchula, Fla., Herald
July 11, 1941

Ozark, Ala., Star
July 10, 1941

Talladega, Ala., Daily Home
July 12, 1941

LYNCHING DEFINED BY THREE CRITERIA

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 12.—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said a 1940 conference on lynching agreed upon the following criteria to be used in reporting such crime:

"(1) Existence of dead body (corpus delicit); (2) Person or persons meeting death illegally by a group of three or more individuals; and (3) Said group acting under pretext of service to justice, race or tradition."

Dr. Patterson's explanation was issued in connection with a statement Thursday in which he said a lynching listed for North Carolina during the first half of 1941 was "similar to positively-recorded lynchings in other states in the past years."

In view of this, Patterson said a change in classification did not seem justified, despite claims from North Carolina newspapers and others that the crime was a murder growing out of an argument on the spot. The perpetrators are all serving prison terms.

37n(1)-1941

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Star of Zion
Charlotte, N. C.

Lynch Record For The First Six Months, 1941

Tuskegee Inst.
July 1, 1941.

Dear Sir:

I send you the following statement concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the information compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were 3 lynchings in the first six months of 1941.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were Attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white men, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; and North Carolina, 1.

Very truly yours,

F. D. Patterson, President.

(Editor's Note — Designation of the North Carolina case has been strongly protested by authorities of Gaston County where the killing occurred.)

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Three Lynch Victims In Six Months

TUSKEGEE.—Three lynchings took place during the first six months of 1941, according to the semi-annual report released July 1 by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee institute.

"All of the persons lynched were Negroes," his report revealed. The offenses charged were attempted rape, stealing from employer and altercation with a white man."

They took place at Quincy, Fla., Blakely, Ga., and Gastonia, N. C. However North Carolina officials prefer calling their reported lynching a "murder" and have convicted and sentenced the white persons involved.

It took place on Sunday, April 13, when Robert Melker, 23-year-old farmer, was shot and killed at his home following a stock fight growing out of an argument with four white boys, Graham and Haywood Dellinger, Robert Sellers and Fred Hudson. Within 10 days they were sentenced to prison terms ranging from 14 to 25 years, which they are now serving.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

TUSKEGEE STICKS BY LYNCH REPORT

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 10—(AP)—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said Thursday a lynching credited to Gaston County, North Carolina, in the first six months of 1941 was "similar to positively recorded lynchings in other states in past years" and consequently no change in the classification "seems justified."

Patterson's statement, defending the classification of three lynchings listed for the first half of the year by the institute's department of records and research, followed criticism in North Carolina newspapers and by William R. Johnson, Negro consultant of the North Carolina Board of Charities and Public Welfare."

Both the newspapers and Johnson insisted that the crime was "murder," that it grew out of an argument on the scene between white men and a Negro, and that the accused four white men now were serving prison terms ranging from 14 to 25 years.

Johnson declared the Tuskegee statement "should be withdrawn or restated to record two lynchings (in Georgia and Florida) with the name of North Carolina omitted."

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

TUSKEGEE STICKS BY LYNCH REPORT

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 10—(AP)—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said Thursday a lynching credited to Gaston County, North Carolina, in the first six months of 1941 was "similar to positively recorded lynchings in other states in past years" and consequently no change in the classification "seems justified."

Patterson's statement, defending the classification of three lynchings listed for the first half of the year by the institute's department of records and research, followed criticism in North Carolina newspapers and by William R. Johnson, Negro consultant of the North Carolina Board of Charities and Public Welfare."

Both the newspapers and Johnson insisted that the crime was "murder," that it grew out of an argument on the scene between white men and a Negro, and that the accused four white men now were serving prison terms ranging from 14 to 25 years.

Johnson declared the Tuskegee statement "should be withdrawn or restated to record two lynchings (in Georgia and Florida) with the name of North Carolina omitted."

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

LYNCHING DEFINED BY THREE CRITERIA

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 11—(AP)—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said a 1940 conference on lynching here agreed upon the following criteria to be used in reporting such crimes:

(1) Existence of dead body (corpus delicti), (2) Person or persons meeting death illegally by a group of three or more individuals; and (3) Said group acting under pretext of service to justice, race or tradition."

Dr. Patterson's explanation was issued in connection with a statement Thursday in which he said a lynching listed for North Carolina during the first half of 1941 was "similar to positively - recorded lynchings in other states in past years."

In view of this, Patterson said a change in classification did not seem justified, despite claims from North Carolina newspapers and others that the crime was a murder growing out of an argument on the spot. The perpetrators are all serving prison terms.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Lynching Record For First 6 Months, 1941

Tuskegee Institute has just released the following statement concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the information compiled at Tuskegee institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were 3 lynchings in the first six months of 1941.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white men, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; and North Carolina, 1.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 7, 1941

County Protests Lynching Story

Sends Officials Resolution to Tuskegee Asking That Erroneous Report Be Corrected About Melker Negro.

Authorization of a resolution of protest to be forwarded to Tuskegee Institute, Negro institution at Tuskegee, Ala., asking that it rescind its erroneous action in improperly charging the death of Robert Melker, 23 - year - old Negro farmer, against Gaston county as a lynching was the principal feature of the morning session of today's regular July meeting of the Gaston county commissioners.

Noting that the classification of the Melker death as a lynching is not in line with the facts in the case, which show that he was killed as the result of a spontaneous argument with four white men, the commissioners authorized County Attorney E. B. Denny to draw a resolution of protest against the nationwide unfavorable publicity given Gaston county by the erroneous lynching report, to be forwarded immediately to Tuskegee Institute.

With tentative adoption of their new budget for the 1941-42 fiscal year and passage of a new $100,000 bond resolution on tap for this afternoon, the commissioners ploughed through a heavy slate of routine matters in their morning session before luncheon adjournment at noon. They were scheduled to resume their session shortly after 1 o'clock this afternoon.

In disposing of routine matters this morning, the commissioners OK'd four road improvement requests to be forwarded to the State highway commission with their recommendation that the work be done and granted the request of Gaston Post No. 23, American Legion, for free license for operation of the Gaston County Fair during the week of October 13 next fall.

Pacing petitions OK'd by the commissioners this morning included one for surfacing of several miles of secondary road, running from the Linwood road to the Myrtle school section, one for surfacing Oakwood avenue in Brookwood, local residential suburb, another for improvement of a secondary road in the vicinity of D. V. Vaughn's home in South Gastonia and still another for improvement of about a mile and a half of secondary road in the Willis school section.

Shelby, N. C. Star
July 8, 1941

Gaston Protests Lynching Listing

GASTONIA, July 8.—Authorization of a resolution of protest to be forwarded to Tuskegee Institute, famed negro institution at Tuskegee, Ala., asking that it rescind its erroneous action in charging the death of Robert Melker, 23-year-old negro farmer, against Gaston county as a lynching, was a highlight of Monday's session of the Gaston county commissioners.

Noting that the classification of the Melker death as a lynching is not in line with the facts in the case, which show he was killed as the result of a spontaneous argument with four white men, the commissioners authorized County Attorney E. B. Denny to draw a resolution of protest against the nationwide unfavorable publicity given Gaston county but the erroneous lynching report, the resolution to be forwarded immediately to the Tuskegee Institute.

The Tuskegee research department listed Melker's death as one of three lynchings occurring in the nation during the first half of 1941 in its semi-annual report released over the Associated Press several days ago.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
July 11, 1941

Patterson Defends Lynching Listing

TUSKEGEE, ALA., July 10.—(AP)—Dr. F. D Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said today a lynching credited to Gaston County, North Carolina, in the first six months of 1941 was "similar to positively recorded lynchings in other States in past years" and consequently no change in the classification "seems justified."

Patterson's statement, defending the classification of three lynchings listed for the first half of the year by the Institute's Department of Records and Research, followed criticism in North Carolina newspapers and by William R. Johnson, negro consultant of the North Carolina Board of Charities and Public Welfare."

Both the newspapers and Johnson insisted that the crime was "murder," that it grew out of an argument on the scene between white men and a negro, and that the accused four white men now were serving prison terms ranging from 14 to 25 years.

Johnson declared the Tuskegee statement "should be withdrawn or restated to record two lynchings (in Georgia and Florida) with the name of North Carolina omitted."

Christian Index
Jackson, Tennessee

JUDGE LYNCH STILL MAINTAINS A PLACE

ACCORDING to the report sent out by President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute, compiled by the Department of Records and Research, there were three lynchings in the first six months of 1941.

Lynching (a purely white American institution) continues to be practiced in our nation. It does appear that if ever there was a time in the history of the world that America should suspend this horrible practice it is while the nations of the earth are gripped in the war and our country has declared its stand for making the world safe for Democracy.

All of the persons reported lynched were as usual Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white men, 1. The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1 and North Carolina, 1.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

N. C. Educator Says Tuskegee Erred In '41 Lynching Report

RALEIGH, N. C., July 17—(ANP)—The action of Tuskegee Institute in classifying as a lynching a murder which occurred in [redacted] county last April was challenged by William [redacted] Johnson; consultant of the state board of charities and public welfare, in a statement issued Wednesday.

Johnson pointed out that lynchings in the United States have decreased and that of the three recorded by Tuskegee for the first six months of 1141, one of them was erroneously reported. Crediting North Carolina with what the files show to be a deliberate murder, "serves neither the state nor Negroes anywhere," Johnson said.

The men accused of the murder which Tuskegee listed as a lynching are now serving jail sentences, which means, the educator said, that "here in North Carolina a premium is placed upon human life . . . . We do not claim a state of perfection here by any means, but those nurtured in this soil and who have grown up with the state, know that we have come a long way in the development of race relations at work."

He concluded "The Tuskegee statement should be withdrawn or re-stated to record two lynchings and the name of North Carolina omitted."

Christian Recorder
Philadelphia, Pa.

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS IN 1941

According to the information compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research there were 3 lynchings in the first six months of [redacted] 1941

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white man 1. [redacted] 1941

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia 1; and North Carolina, 1.

F. D. Patterson, President

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

3 Lynchings Reported In First Half Of Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—The Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, through F. D. Patterson, president, reported on Tuesday that for the first six months of 1941 there were 3 lynchings.

According to Dr. Patterson "all of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white men, 1. [redacted] 1941

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; and North Carolina, 1."

Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
July 11, 1941

Patterson Holds Death in Gaston Was a 'Lynching'

Tuskegee, Ala. (AP).—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said yesterday a lynching credited to Gaston county, North Carolina, in the first six months of 1941 was "similar to positively recorded lynchings in other states in past years" and consequently there would be no change in the classification of three lynchings listed for the first half of the year by the institute's department of record and research.

His statement followed criticism in North Carolina newspapers and by William R. Johnson, Negro consultant of the North Carolina board of charities and public welfare.

The newspapers and Johnson insisted that the crime was "murder," that it grew out of an argument on the scene between white men and a Negro, and that the accused four white men now were serving prison terms ranging from 14 to 25 years.

West Palm Beach, Fla. Times
July 15, 1941

Tuskegee Head Firm On Carolina 'Lynching'

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—(AP)—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said Thursday a lynching laid to Gaston County, North Carolina, in the first six months of 1941 was "similar to positively recorded lynchings in other states in past years" and consequently no change in the classification "seems justified."

Patterson's statement, defending the classification of three lynchings listed for the first half of the year by the insttiute's department of records and research, followed criticism in North Carolina newspapers and by William R. Johnson, Negro consultant of the North Carolina Board of Charities and Public Welfare."

Both the newspapers and Johnson insisted the crime was "murder;" that it grew out of an argument on the scene between white men and a Negro, and that the accused four white men now were serving prison terms ranging from 14 to 25 years.

Johnson declared the Tuskegee statement "should be withdrawn or restated to record two lynchings (in Georgia and Florida) with the name of North Carolina omitted."

Ludowici, Ga., News
July 10, 1941

3 Lynchings Mark First Half of 1941

According to the information compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, there were 3 lynchings in the first six months of 1941.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white men, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; and North Carolina, 1.

Hendersonville, N. C., Times-News
July 2, 1941

3 Lynchings In Year's First Half

TUSKEGEE, July 2. (Special) Information compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research shows that there were three lynchings in the first six months of 1941.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1 stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white men, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; North Carolina, 1.

Oneida, Tenn. News
July 18, 1941

THREE LYNCHINGS IN FIRST HALF OF YEAR

Report Compiled By Tuskegee Institute of Alabama.

According to the information compiled at Tuskogee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, there were three lynchings in the first six months of 1941.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white men, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; and North Carolina, 1.

McKenzie, Tenn. Banner
July 11, 1941

THREE LYNCH DEATHS REPORTED IN SOUTH

Three lynchings in the South were reported for the first six months of 1941 by Tuskegee Institute, the negro college in Alabama.

All of the persons lynched were negroes, the report says, and the offenses charged were attempted rape, stealing from an employee and altercation with a white man. The three lynchings occurred in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
July 15, 1941

LYNCHING — Broughton added [redacted] his protest to those previously made against the inclusion by the Tuskegee Institute of the murder of a Negro in Gaston county by four white men last April as a lynching.

Pointing out that the four white men concerned were all sentenced to long prison terms, the Governor said:

"I think the classification of the case as a lynching was unjust and out of keeping with what I understand a lynching to be. A lynching is the action of a mob which seeks to replace the due course of justice. North Carolina has never before complained at the classification of a lynching by the institute, but the present classification is unfair and brings into question the authentic basis of the institute's reports."

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Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 25, 1941

Tuskegee Challenged By Gaston Interracial Unit

Interracial Commission Protests Classification Of Melker Death As Lynching; Asks National Groups To Call For Investigation.

At a special meeting of the executive committee of the Gaston County Unit of the North Carolina Interracial Commission Thursday afternoon resolutions were unanimously adopted protesting against the classification of the recent murder of Robert Melker, Negro of Gaston county, by Tuskegee Institute as a lynching and challenging the research department of that institution, through the State and National Interracial Commissions, to send investigators here to discover the facts regarding this crime.

Members of this committee, which is composed equally of white and colored, are Rev. Dr. T. H. McDill, Brice T. Dickson, J. W. Atkins, Dr. Henry C. McDowell, Prof. T. Jeffers and Mrs. Maude M. Jeffers.

Dr. McDill, president of the Gaston unit, presided at the committee meeting.

Following a full and free discussion of the crime and the prompt arrest, trial, conviction and sentencing of the criminals, Dr. McDowell, president of Lincoln Academy and outstanding as a leader of the Negro race in the South, introduced the resolutions which were unanimously adopted. Copies of this resolution will be sent to the North Carolina Interracial Commission, the National Interracial Commission at Atlanta, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the interracial committee of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America and perhaps to other State and National organizations.

In the course of the discussion on the subject each Negro member of the committee stated unequivocally that at no time had he heard any member of the Negro race in Gaston county—and nearly 25 per cent of the population of the county is colored—even intimate that the killing of Melker, as brutal and dastardly as it was, took on in any of its phases the aspect of a lynching.

Following are the resolutions as adopted:

Regarding the Robert Melker case and its classification by the Tuskegee Institute Research Department as a "lynching," the Gaston County Unit of the North Carolina Interracial Commission, acting through its executive committee, makes the following observations and authorizes the appended resolutions:

1. We are gratified to note the fact that the efforts of organizations working, primarily through an aroused public opinion, for the eradication of lynching have apparently succeeded beyond their expectations on the case of the City of Gastonia, Gaston county, and the State of North Carolina. There is genuine feeling of chagrin and actual "hurt" as a result of the present episode. And although we protest the present action of the Tuskegee Institute we know that it deserves high praise as one of the contributing agencies to this highly sensitized public opinion. We further feel that the publicity given the case and the consequent aroused public opinion will preclude any undue shortening of the prison terms being served by the perpetrators of the crime.

2. We do not want that any statement going forth from this organization, dedicated as it is to the task of securing equal justice for all, should be interpreted as minimizing the gravity of the crime, nor as mere superfluous commendation of efficient officers and courts who simply did their duty. Our concern is that the fine spirit of interracial cooperation and goodwill should not suffer a setback, and that the valuable services rendered in this field by a splendid institution like Tuskegee Institute should not offer ground for protest and debate. And our immediate concern is that the Interracial Commission, of which we are a part, should not heap insult upon injury by, without proper study and investigation, following Tuskegee Institute's classification of the Melker killing, but should use its good offices to help our county clear its record of what we consider an unfair stigma.

Be it therefore resolved:

1. That the Gaston County Unit of the Interracial Commission asks the official headquarters of the organization, both State and National, to fully study the material submitted herewith before committing itself; and in any case before classifying the Melker killing as a lynching to send a representative to Gaston county to make a thorough investigation.

2. That this unit also suggest to local units of other State and National organizations in the habit of issuing statistics on lynching and operating specifically to encourage interracial goodwill, e. g. the N. A. A. C. P. and the Commission on Interracial Cooperation of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, that they also follow the procedure suggested.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

WHEN IS A LYNCHING?

When the semi-annual report on lynchings was released by Tuskegee Institute recently, there was an immediate wave of protest from North Carolina.

North Carolina, for the first time in many years, was listed on the tally sheet of dishonor. But, insisted North Carolinians, the inclusion of that State on the list was unjustified and unfair.

The killing which had been classified as a lynching in a Tuskegee compilation was a spontaneous murder, spokesmen for the State insisted. Petitions have been addressed to Tuskegee from individuals, from institutions, from newspapers, from organizations, from the Rev. William R. Johnson, Negro consultant of the State Board of Public Welfare, and finally Gov. Broughton has officially repudiated the classification.

There has not been a more heartening demonstration of the South's opposition to lynching than the insistent, persistent, at times even angry, demands that North Carolina's name be removed from the list.

However, the heartening effect of the incident is dimmed by the ill-feeling that has been aroused in the Old North State, an ill-feeling that is directed now at Tuskegee Institute. The semi-annual release of lynching facts is a minor incident in the research and records work of Dr. Monroe N. Work who has compiled at Tuskegee the most significant body of data to be found related to the American Negro. The Institute considers itself merely as a factual reporter in this instance.

The current dispute involves the question of "What is a lynching?" An exact definition, upon which there would be universal agreement, is obviously impossible.

The Advertiser is not familiar with the exact details of the killing in question. It appears that a Negro was murdered by four white men as the outcome of a drunken brawl. North Carolina spokesmen insist that the crime was a spontaneous murder for which the guilty parties have been given long prison sentences.

Tuskegee Institute has set up this general definitation of what constitutes a lynching. First: the body must be found to satisfy the very common requirement that a body be produced in any murder prosecution. Second: the person must be killed by three or more persons supposedly acting in the interest of justice, mores, or tradition.

The Advertiser agrees in detail to that general defiintion of a lynching. But there is yet some question whether this particular case in North Carolina fits the definition. Tuskegee Institute says it does. Responsible North Carolina authorities say it does not.

Among the North Carolinians who have spoken there are many who are as sincerely opposed to lynching as any persons or institutions to be found anywhere, including The Advertiser and Tuskegee Institute.

Since there is widespread sentiment in North Carolina against that State being included on the list where lynchings have occurred, why not reopen the question. Certainly Tuskegee would not want to blacken the good name of a State without being certain that it is on absolutely sound grounds.

Let a committee be selected, there are persons in North Carolina of the integrity of the Frank Porter Graham type who would be fitted for such a task, to consider two things: (1) The current definition of lynching; (2) the crime in question. On the basis of a detailed examination of these facts, let the committee decide whether the crime should be classified as a lynching or as a murder.

Opposition to lynching is based upon a conviction that persons accused of crimes should be given fair and impartial trials. No less should be expected of a question in-

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Patterson Releases Lynching Criteria

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TUSKEGEE, ALA., July 11. (AP)—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said a recent conference on lynching here agreed upon the following criteria to be used in reporting such crimes:

1. Existence of dead body (corpus delicti); 2. Person or persons meeting death illegally by a group of three or more individuals; and 3. Said group acting under pretext of service to justice, race or tradition."

Dr. Patterson's explanation was issued in connection with a statement yesterday in which he said a lynching listed for North Carolina during the first half of 1941 was "similar to positively recorded lynchings in other States in past years."

In view of this, Patterson said a change in classification did not seem justified, despite claims from North Carolina newspapers and others that the crime was a murder growing out of an argument on the spot. The perpetrators are all serving prison terms.

Rocky Mount, N. C., Weekly News
July 11, 1941

AIN'T NO LYNCHING

For years it has been the custom for The Telegram, as well as many other newspapers, to receive Tuskegee Institute's President F. D. Patterson's semi-annual report on the lynching situation in the country for the preceding half-year. And that report generally has been the subject for an editorial. Those editorials, incidentally, have dwelt on the fact that mob violence appears to have been receding, a fact for which we expressed extreme gratefulness.

But the current Tuskegee report hurled Tar Heel editors back upon their haunches for one of the three lynchings reported was alleged to have occurred in North Carolina—Gaston county, to be specific. And now the press of the State is rising up in all its wrath against something which hadn't been considered at all in the light the Tuskegee report portrays it. The substance of Tar Heel editorials to date has been that it was no lynching. In fact, the summary below, which Editor Jonathan Daniels of the Raleigh News and Observer hurriedly got together from facts examined both at the scene and in state offices at Raleigh, furnishes good reason for Gastonia's Chamber of Commerce and other agencies to start oiling their fowling pieces.

Here's that summary:

"The last case occurred in North Carolina on Sunday, April 13, when Robert Melker, a 23-year-old Gaston county Negro farmer, was shot and killed at his home near Cherryville ,Gaston county, following a rock fight which grew out of an argument with four white boys, Graham and Haywood Dellinger, Robert Sellers and Fred Hudson. Within ten days after the shooting all four of the white boys were sentenced to prison terms ranging from 14 to 25 years, which they are now serving.

"The evidence at the trial at Gastonia before Judge Frank Armstrong showed that Sellers was wounded when the mother of the Negro broke up the rock fight by firing a shotgun. It was also alleged that the Negro man had a gun, which he had no opportunity to use, when the white boys returned to his farm, after leaving to secure two shot guns. The killing of Melker grew entirely out of incidents of that afternoon and no other persons were concerned in any way."

No. It certainly doesn't look like a lynching. And it certainly never was publicized as a lynching when it occurred and it shouldn't be used as a weapon for giving this State a blackeye. It's a blow below the belt for Tar Heel editors when one considers the fact that they have stood to a man against mob violence and mob rule. Let Tuskegee make amends for this, else much that has been fought for will have been wasted effort.

And if you want further proof that North Carolina editors are moaning low about this outrage, just read what the Gastonia Gazette, which is published in the country where the alleged lynching is supposed to have occurred, has to say about the incident:

"We hope the research authorities of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama will know, by the time they receive the bombardment of clippings and conclusive evidence from North Carolina newspapers that there was no lynching in Gaston county Easter Sunday. The Negro, Robert Melker, was shot by one of four drunken youths, all of whom are paying the penalty in long penitentiary sentences. If the famous Negro institution wishes to retain its prestige for truth and reliability, it will announce a retraction of the charges made that this Negro was lynched in North Carolina."

Sanford, N. C., Herald
July 11, 1941

Lynchings In 1941

Gradually, year by year, the spirit of lawlessness reflcted in lynchings is being eradicated in the United States. The number of instances in which men have desregarded authorities and established machinery of justice in taking the law in their own hands to snuff out the life of a fellow man continues to decrease.

During the first six months of 1941, the Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, which keeps tab on lynchings, reports only three such crimes. In fact, indications are that a smaller number of lynchings, only two, should be reported. The allocation of one to North Carolina has been denied by William R. Johnson, negro consultant of the state board of charities and public welfare. All the evidence points to the conclusion on that crime, whichoccurred in Gaston county, was really a murder, and should be counted as such. Prepetrators of the killing were convicted and given sentences ranging from 14 to 25 years.

The important fact, however, whether the number of lynchings were three or two, is that this form of barbarity is apparently on the way out.

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

Gov. Says Negro Not Lynched

RALEIGH, N. C., —Governor J. M. Broughton termed the classification of a lynching in the slaying of Robert Melkers, 23, Gaston county, as unjust and unfair to the state.

Tuskegee Institute termed the shooting one of the three lynchings involving Negroes in the nation during the first six months of the year.

The governor said there is not a single element of lynchings in the case.

Melkers was shot and killed by four white men in Gaston county on April 29 following an argument between the white men and the victim's wife.

All the white men were duly arrested and tried and convicted and are now serving terms from 14 to 25 years in Central Prison.

Broughton said the classification of a lynching reflects on the courts of North Carolina which has carried out its duty in convicting the guilty men.

As he sees it, the governor said, a lynching is a case where a mob or group of persons attempt to take the law in their hands, but there is no such evidence in the Melker case.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Patterson Defends Lynching Listing

TUSKEGEE, ALA., July 10. (AP)—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said today a lynching credited to Gaston County, North Carolina, in the first six months of 1941 was "similar to positively recorded lynchings" in other States in past years" and consequently no change in the classification "seems justified."

Patterson's statement, defending the classification of three lynchings listed for the first half of the year by the Institute's Department of Records and Research, followed criticism in North Carolina newspapers and by William R. Johnson, negro consultant of the North Carolina Board of Charities and Public Welfare."

Both the newspapers and Johnson insisted that the crime was "murder," that it grew out of an argument on the scene between white men and a negro, and that the accused four white men now were serving [illegible] terms ranging from 14 to 25 years.

Johnson declared the Tuskegee statement "should be withdrawn or restated to record two lynchings (in Georgia and Florida) with the name of North Carolina omitted."

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Raleigh, N. C. News & Observer
July 3, 1941

Lynching Charged to N. C. In Report from Tuskegee

A report just issued by the Tuskegee Institute at Tuskegee, Ala., on lynchings this year includes North Carolina for the first time in several years. However, the killing in North Carolina was not regarded as a lynching by anyone in authority in this State and was far different from the usual lynching.

A total of three "lynchings" were reported for the whole country for this year and were credited to Quincy, Fla.; Blakely, Ga.; and Gastonia, N. C. None of the 30 lynchings reported for the five-year period from 1936 to 1940 occurred in this State and only two of the 23 from 1931 to 1935 were credited to this State.

The three causes of "lynchings" reported this year were: attempted rape, stealing from employer, and altercation with white man.

The last case occurred in North Carolina on Sunday, April 13, when Robert Melker, a 23-year-old Gaston County Negro farmer, was shot and killed at his home near Cherryville, Gaston County, following a rock fight which grew out of an argument with four white boys, Graham and Haywood Dellinger, Robert Sellers and Fred Hudson. Within ten days after the shooting all four of the white boys were sentenced to prison terms ranging from 14 to 25 years, which they are now serving.

The evidence at the trial at Gastonia before Judge Frank Armstrong showed that Sellers was wounded when the mother of the Negro broke up the rock fight by firing a shotgun. It was also alleged that the Negro man had a gun, which he had no opportunity to use, when the white boys returned to his farm, after leaving to secure two shotguns. The killing of Melker grew entirely out of incidents of that afternoon and no other persons were concerned in any way.

Tuskegee, Ala., July 3.—(AP)—Tuskegee Institute reported three lynchings in the first six months of 1941—one each in Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina.

The report, issued by President F. D. Patterson, said:

"All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white man, 1."

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
July 4, 1941

COUNTY PROTESTS TUSKEGEE REPORT

Negro's Slaying Definitely Not Lynching, Gaston Officials Declare

Gastonia, July 3.—(AP)—Secretary Brice T. Dickson said today the Gastonia Chamber of Commerce would protest vigorously against action of Tuskegee (Ala.) Institute in listing the Easter Sunday shooting of Robert Melker near here as a lynching.

Dickson declared Melker, a Negro, was killed as the result of a spontaneous argument with four young white men, all of whom were arrested within a short time after the slaying and are now serving prison sentences.

The generally accepted idea of a lynching, the secretary said, is a killing occurring when a mob or group of men takes the law into their own hands and deals with a person accused of crime. In the Melker case, he asserted, the conditions were entirely different.

Gaston County, the secretary said, has not had a lynching in 60 years.

Eufaula, Ala. Tribune
July 3, 1941

Records Show Three Lynchings First Six Months

According to records kept at Tuskegee Institute, there were three lynchings in Southern states during the first six months of this year. None occurred in Alabama, the first one being in Florida, the second in Georgia and the third in North Carolina. The offenses were attempted rape, stealing from employer and an altercation with white men.

Tallahassee, Fla. Democrat
July 3, 1941

Three Lynchings Are Credited to South

TUSKEGEE, Ala, (AP) — Three lynchings, one in each Georgia, Florida and North Carolina, were reported for the first six months of 1941 by Tuskegee Institute.

All of the victims were negroes, it said, and T R Broady, assistant in research at the institute, listed the cases and circumstances thus:

"1—April 20, Gaston county, near Cherryville, N C, Robert Melker, negro, charged with altercation with white men; shot to death in home by four men.

"2—May 6, Blakely, Early county, Ga, Robert Sapp, negro, suspected of stealing from his employer; flogged with a club and piece of machine belting.

"3—May 13, Quincy, Gadsden county, Fla, A C Williams, negro, charged with attempted rape upon 12-year-old white girl; beaten and body riddled with bullets."

Aiken, S. C., Standard & Review
July 4, 1941

3 Lynchings In First 6 Months of 1941. All Negroes

F. D. Patterson, President of Tuskegee Institute has supplied the Standard and Review with the following statement concerning lynchings for the first six months of 1941.

According to the figures compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, threre were 3 lynchings in the first six months of this year.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white men, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; and North Carolina, 1.

Montgomery, Ala. Journal
July 3, 1941

Alabama Escapes Lynchings Thus Far

TUSKEGEE, July 3.—Three lynchings, one in each Georgia, Florida and North Carolina, were reported for the first six months of 1941 by Tuskegee Institute.

All of the victims were negroes, it said, and T. R. Broady, assistant in research at the institute, listed the cases and circumstances thus:

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"3. May 13, Quincy, Gadsden County, Fla.: A. C. Williams, negro, charged with attempted rape upon 12-year-old white girl; beaten and bod yriddled with bullets."

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
July 3, 1941

3 LYNCHINGS REPORTED FOR FIRST HALF OF 1941

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2 (AP).—Tuskegee institute reported today three lynchings in the first six months of 1941, one each in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina.

All victims, it said, were Negroes.

Details and specific locations were not given in individual cases in the press release issued by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president, but Monroe N Work, chief of the institute's records and research department, said tonight they would be available when his office opened tomorrow.

"All of the persons lynched were Negroes," said Patterson's release. "The offenses charged were attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white man, 1.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1, and North Carolina, 1."

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
July 3, 1941

Tuskegee Reports 3 Lynchings; 1 in Florida

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—(A.P.)—Tuskegee institute reported today three lynchings in the first six months of 1941, one in each Florida, Georgia and North Carolina. All victims, it said, were Negroes.

The offenses charged were: attempted rape, one; stealing from employer, one; altercation with white man, one.

Huntsville, Ala., Times
July 4, 1941

Not A Lynching, Protests C. Of C.

GASTONIA, N. C., July 4 (AP)—Secretary Brice T. Dickson said yesterday the Gastonia Chamber of Commerce would protest vigorously against the action of Tuskegee (Ala.) Institute in listing the Easter Sunday shooting of Robert Melker near here as a lynching.

Dickson declared Melker, a negro, was killed as the result of a spontaneous argument with four young white men, all of whom were arrested within a short time after the slaying and are now serving prison sentences.

The generally accepted idea of a lynching, the secretary said, is a killing occurring when a mob or group of men takes the law into their own hands and deals with a person accused of crime. In the Melker case, he asserted, the conditions were entirely different.

Gaston county, the secretary said, has not had a lynching in 60 years.

Columbia, S. C. State
July 4, 1941

Three Lynchings In Six Months

Tuskegee, Ala., July 3—(AP)—Lynchings in Georgia Florida and North Carolina were reported today for the first six months of 1941 by Tuskegee Institute.

All three victims were Negroes, it said. T. R. Broady, assistant in research at the institute, listed the cases and circumstances thus:

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Anderson, S. C., Independent Trib
July 3, 1941

REPORT THREE LYNCHINGS

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2—(AP)—Tuskegee Institute reported today three lynchings in the first six months of 1941, one in each Florida, Georgia and North Carolina.

New Orleans, La., Times-Picayune
July 3, 1941

THREE LYNCHINGS ARE REPORTED FOR 1941

(The Associated Press)

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2.—Tuskegee Institute reported Wednesday three lynchings in the first six months of 1941, one each in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina.

All victims, it said, were Negroes.

Details and specific locations were not given in individual cases.

Sumter, S. C., Daily Item
July 3, 1941

Three Lynchings First Half 1941

According to the information compiled at Tuskegee Institute there were 3 lynchings in the first six months of 1941.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white men, 1.

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Wilmington, N. C. News
July 3, 1941

THREE LYNCHINGS REPORTED IN SOUTH

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"1—April 20, Gaston county, near Cherryville, N. C., Robert Melkner, negro, charged with altercation with white men; shot to death in home by four men.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
July 3, 1941

THREE LYNCHINGS FIRST 6 MONTHS OF CURRENT YEAR

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West Point, Ga. News
July 3, 1941

3 LYNCHINGS REPORTED

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All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white men, 1.

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Hickory, N. C. Record
July 3, 1941

Slaying Of Negro Near Cherryville Listed As Lynching

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GASTONIA TO PROTEST

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Savannah, Ga., Press
July 3, 1941

THREE LYNCHINGS LISTED BY TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE

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"3—May 13, Quincy, Gadsden county, Florida, A. C. Williams, negro, charged with attempted assault upon 12-year-old white girl; beaten and body riddled with bullets."

Asheville N. C. Citizen
July 4, 1941

Report Is Made On Southern Lynchings

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Chattanooga Tenn Times
7-3-41

Report 3 Lynchings In First Half of '41

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Albany, Ga., Herald
July 3, 1941

Three Lynchings In Three States In Six Months

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Huntsville, Ala., Times
July 3, 1941

Three Lynchings First 6 Months

Tuskegee Reports They Took Place In Georgia, Florida, N. Carolina

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Palmetto Leader
Columbia, S. C.

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS, 1941

Dear Sir:

I send you the following statement concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the information compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were 3 lynchings in the first six months of 1941.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white men, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; and North Carolina, 1.

Very truly yours,
F. D. Patterson, President

The Union
Cincinnati, Ohi

SIX MONTHS LYNCHING RECORD

Editor Dabney,

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F. D. PATTERSON,
President.

37n(1)-1941

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Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

The Lynching Record

Three lynchings for the first six months of 1941 are recorded by Tuskegee Institute in a communication which appears in today's Voice of the People from President Patterson, of the institute, but vigorous demurrers already are being entered in North Carolina to one of them. Informed Tar Heels are protesting that the killing of a Negro in Gaston County April 13 by four white youths, following a rock battle, was not a lynching. The four white youths are now serving terms from 14 to 25 years.

There seems to be something in the argument of the North Carolinians. Admittedly there are borderline cases which under one definition will be termed a "lynching" and under another will be bracketed as a "murder." Taking everything into consideration, the killing under notice impresses us as more properly placed in the latter category. There was nothing remotely resembling a mob anywhere in the picture.

Last December the Commission on Interracial Relations, the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People held a joint conference at Tuskegee, which was attended by other Southern leaders, for the purpose of arriving at a definition of lynching which would be satisfactory to all. Apparently complete agreement was never reached, for the N. A. A. C. P., which usually has operated under a broader definition than the other two bodies, published a definition soon afterward in its annual report for 1940 which differed from that carried in the Southern Frontier, the organ of the two Southern interracial agencies.

The N. A. A. C. P. termed a lynching "an activity in which persons in defiance of law administer punishment by death to an individual for an alleged offense or to an individual with whom some offense has been associated." But the Commission on Interracial Cooperation says a lynching is the killing of a person "by a group acting under the pretext of service to justice, race or tradition."

The classification of the North Carolina killing as a lynching by Tuskegee indicates that something nearer the N. A. A. C. P. definition, rather than the Interracial Commission definition, was used in this particular instance. This seems a mistake, for the N. A. A. C. P. definition is too broad. Can't it be interpreted as placing in the lynching category any homicide in which two men kill another? Such a sweeping and all-inclusive use of the term impresses one as utterly unscientific. Moreover, how is one to avoid counting scores of gang killings in the North as lynchings, under its terms?

Actually, then, it would appear that only two genuine lynchings have occurred below the Potomac during the first six months of 1941. If the second half of the year can be kept clean of this stain, and Tuskegee can be persuaded not to count the Carolina killing, it will be the best year in the South's postbellum history. The best previous record was for 1939, when Tuskegee reported only three lynch victims. There were five in 1940.—The Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Winston-Salem, N C Journal
August 16, 1941

Official Repudiation

The newspapers of North Carolina have been unanimous in their protest against Tuskegee Institute's report of a lynching in North Carolina in 1941.

Now Governor Broughton has formally repudiated that report. In a brief but emphatic statement, the Governor says:

"I think the classification of the case as a lynching was unjust and out of keeping with what I understand a lynching to be. A lynching is the action of a mob which seeks to replace the due course of justice. North Carolina has never before complained about the classification of a lynching by the institute, but the present classification is unfair and brings into question the authentic basis of the institute's reports."

The case referred to was the murder of a Negro in Gaston county. The facts are as follows:

Four white men and a Negro engaged in a rock fight. The mother of the Negro brought the fight to a close temporarily by firing a shotgun at the white men. The white men left the scene and returned a little while later with two shotguns to renew the fight. The murder resulted. The murderers were promptly arrested, vigorously prosecuted and convicted. They are now serving long sentences.

Nobody in North Carolina even thought of classifying this as a lynching. It was a gang murder, similar in many respects to homicides that have occurred in Chicago and other Northern centers of population where gangs have operated for many years.

Webster defines the verb "lynch" as follows: "To inflict punishment upon, especially death, without the forms of law, as when a mob captures and hangs a suspected person."

In this Gaston county fight, there was no mob attempting to inflict punishment upon a suspect. The murder was clearly the result of a quarrel and a fight. It is deplorable that the authorities at Tuskegee Institute who keep the record of lynchings in the country from year to year should have classified this killing as a lynching, and it is doubly deplorable that these authorities, now that all the facts surrounding this murder have been brought to their attention, have so far refused to reverse their decision.

Is it too much to expect that, when the Tuskegee authorities give thorough consideration to the statement of Governor Broughton, they will change their verdict?

For the sake of their own reputation, as well as for the good name of North Carolina, which is justly proud of its long-standing record of preventing mob rule and lynching in all of the one hundred counties of the Commonwealth, we hope Tuskegee will change its report on lynchings for 1941.

When we express this hope, we are not speaking for the white people of North Carolina alone, but also for the better element of our Negro population. For proof of such contention, we cite the statement on this case issued by Rev. William R. Johnson, the Negro consultant of the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare.

He says the decision reached by the Tuskegee authorities with respect to the Gaston county case is ridiculous, and adds:

"To hold North Carolina up for ridicule in this instance, serves neither the state nor Negroes anywhere any good. We do not claim a state of perfection here by any means, but those who are nurtured in this soil and have grown up with the state, know that we have come a long way in the development of race relations at work.

"North Carolina is neither north nor south. In hundreds of instances, it stands out as a beacon light in Negro progress and states neither north nor south can boast of such facts and actualities to back this statement. We must recall here, the statement by P. B. Young, editor of *The Norfolk Journal and Guide*, and a native North Carolinian, that 'the United States is divided into three parts, the north, the south and North Carolina.'

"We invite inquiry relative to happenings in North Carolina, whether they be good or bad, and stand ready always to present the facts.

"The Tuskegee statement should be withdrawn or restated to record two lynchings and the name of North Carolina omitted."

EDITORIAL

37n(1)-1941 6792

EDITORIALS

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
July 20, 1941

GENERAL MECKLENBURG.

Hon. J. M. Broughton,
Governor of North Carolina.

Dear Governor Broughton:

Informed public sentiment in North Carolina generally will support the position you expressed last week upon your return from vacation, in taking issue with the recent report of the Tuskegee Institute which listed the murder of a Negro in Gaston county last April as a lynching.

Your statement that the classification of that case as a lynching was "out of keeping with what I understand a lynching to be" has been made probably by a host of informed North Carolina citizens including many public officials and civic leaders.

In my confirmed opinion, most people in North Carolina who have given serious thought to what constitutes a lynching agree with your definition that it is "the action of a mob which seeks to replace the due course of justice by taking a person from the hands of the law or, by anticipating the law, by taking a person before he is duly arrested," and putting him to death.

You are entirely correct in saying the Tuskegee classification in the Gaston case "is unfair to the State and brings into question the authentic basis of the institute's reports, which heretofore have been considered entirely reliable" and never before have drawn complaint from North Carolina.

It is significant that Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee, admits revision was made in 1940 in the criteria for classification of lynchings. Could it be that lynchings were becoming so infrequent that it was necessary to "change the rules" lest all argument for a Federal anti-lynching law might be lost with the virtual disappearance of lynchings in the South?

GENERAL MECKLENBURG.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 15, 1941

GASTON MURDER NOT LYNCHING

Birmingham Age - Herald, One Of The Biggest Newspapers In The South, Says The Murder Of Robert Melker Was Not A Lynching.

(The Birmingham Age-Herald)

The News and Observer of Raleigh maintains that the killing of a Negro in North Carolina, which was classified by Tuskegee Institute as one of three lynchings in the first six months of 1941, was not in fact a lynching.

"This murder, which took place in Gaston county last April," says The News and Observer, of which Jonathan Daniels is editor, "can only by distortion be called a lynching. Its description as a lynching makes all other killings everywhere, so classified, suspect as to their true character. Its listing as a lynching does a serious injustice to the Southern State which has had fewer true lynchings than any other.

"Here was a case in which four white hoodlums in the town of Cherryville went on a rampage in which they killed a Negro man. There was absolutely no feeling in the community against the Negro. He was merely the victim of a bunch of drunks. Within 24 hours all of the four white men were arrested and in jail. Within 10 days they had been tried and sentenced to long terms in the penitentiary. . . . ."

The newspaper reports that the shooting followed a rock fight which grew out of an argument.

If the facts in this case are as represented by The News and Observer, it seems to The Age-Herald, too, that this killing should not have been classified as a lynching and that the fight against lynching is impeded, rather than helped, by so classifying this crime.

As The News and Observer says, "calling such a case a lynching will not help eliminate lynchings but will help to destroy the value of these statistics in the propaganda against lynching and everywhere else."

* * *

While the term lynching has widely varying definitions in the minds of honestly differing persons, it does, in common understanding, we think, stand for a kind of killing quite different from the sort developing out of circumstances like those reported by the News and Observer.

The common understanding of lynching, when the victim is a Negro, involves, we think, racial hatred or prejudice. Moreover, as we have suggested before, the average idea of a lynching conceives of a killing carried out by a group under some moral pretext of service to justice, race, tradition.

Now it can be argued by some force, we believe, that this particular killing might not have taken place if the victim had not been a Negro and that the slayers were probably inflamed by racial feeling and may have felt that they were upholding their own race. But such a conception, we think, would give too much weight to preceding elements, such as the drunkenness of the convicted men.

It can be argued that racial feeling probably was latent all the time in this instance and under provocation showed itself. But we think it more likely that intoxication and violent temper were the factors against which the main blame should be assessed rather than racial feeling, which might, to be sure, be provoked at any place, anywhere, just as violent feelings might be provoked between men of the same race.

* * *

Of course, anyone has a right to his own definition. And it is true that racial feeling might come to be a large factor in a crime growing out of events originally not bearing particularly on race. Moreover, it is extremely important that actual mob violence not be covered up under some other name and that every effort be made to prevent suppression of facts in any case. But it should be remembered that the purpose of its publicity directed against lynching is to further the fight to eliminate this terrible evil. This fight will not be furthered by classifying as a lynching any case which does not come within the general understanding of that term.

It should be remembered also that lynching is conceived in the average mind as a crime carried out under pretext of high motivation of one kind or another. A killing growing out of a fight involving drunken men, whose drunkenness rather than a crime or other alleged wrong-doing attributed to the victim, seems to have been the main originating factor, does not come within this generally held concept.

We well realize that lynching can be defined in various ways both with intelligence and good faith. We have every confidence in the good faith and intelligence of Tuskegee Institute's lynching research and statistics. The institute's long and valuable service in this regard has been characterized by realism, conservation and wisdom. But it does seem to us, on the face of The News and Observer's account of this case, that an error has been made.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
July 13, 1941

Not A Lynching

An editorial in The Birmingham Age-Herald

The News and Observer of Raleigh maintains that the killing of a Negro in North Carolina, which was classified by Tuskegee Institute as one of three lynchings in the first six months of 1941, was not in fact a lynching.

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Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 17, 1941

WHAT IS A LYNCHING?

(Asheville Citizen)

President Patterson of the Tuskegee Institute still insists that the slaying of a Negro by four white men in Gaston county last April was a "lynching" and that it will be so listed in the records of that institution. He brushes aside the arguments of North Carolina newspapers and Negro leaders that the incident, deplorable as it was, was nothing more than an aggravated murder for which the guilty persons are now serving long prison sentences.

The Gaston county crime had none of the indispensable characteristics of a bona fide "lynching." It did not square with any of the definitions of a "lynching" to be found in the dictionaries. There was no mob. There was no attempt on the part of a group of citizens to assume the functions of the courts and to administer lawless justice. The facts of the case are incontestable. Four white men and a Negro became involved in a rock fight. The mother of the Negro ended the brawl temporarily by firing a shotgun and wounding one of the white aggressors. The white men left the scene, obtained two shotguns and returned to the Negro's farm to renew the fight. The murder resulted. The murderers were promptly arrested, vigorously prosecuted and convicted. They are now serving long sentences.

When this murder was committed, no newspaper or responsible person in North Carolina classified it as a "lynching." It was not a case of trying to minimize the crime. It did not occur to any one that any reputable organization or institution would seek to brand the murder as a "lynching." The newspapers and the officials of the state were naturally shocked when Tuskegee Institute listed it as a "lynching." They are shocked again to learn now that this institution has decided to presevere in its error.

If this murder was a "lynching," then we must alter our long-standing conception of the crime. If this definition is to stand, then scores of unrecorded "lynchings" happen in the United States each year. Furthermore, many are committed annually in those states which lie without the borders of the South.

North Carolina has striven hard to avoid lynchings. There is no state in the South which has a better record for the past few years. It is regrettable that this record should be marred now by the capricious action of the Tuskegee Institute in finding a "lynching" where none was actually committed. It is all the more regrettable because such action will bring into question the accuracy of the figures which the Tuskegee Institute assembles and which have previously been accepted as authoritative.

Pensacola, Fla. News
July 12, 1941

Lynching Record For '41 Only Two

THREE LYNCHINGS, one in Florida, have occurred in the first six months of 1941, acocrding to records kept by the Tuskegee institute, but one of these, it appears from other reports, cannot be classified properly as a lynching.

There is no doubt concerning the lynching in Florida. Westbrook Pegler heralded it to the world, together with some unfair and unfounded criticism of Florida in general and West Florida in particular. A Negro charged with attempted rape of a white girl twice was taken from officers and finally killed in Gadsden county. No action has been taken against the offenders that we have heard of.

The other two are charged to Georgia, where a Negro was killed after stealing from his employer, the Tuskegee report says, and to North Carolina, where a Negro was slain in an altercation with white men.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch, discussing the Tuskegee report, throws a great deal of light on the North Carolina case, saying:

> Three lynchings for the first six months of 1941 are recorded by Tuskegee Institute in a communication which appears in today's Voice of the People from President Patterson, of the institute, but vigorous demurrers already are being entered in North Carolina to one of them. Informed Tar Heels are protesting that the killing of a Negro in Gaston county April 13 by four white youths, following a rock battle, was not a lynching. The four white youths are now serving terms from 14 to 25 years.
>
> There seems to be something in the argument of the North Carolinians. Admittedly there are borderline cases which under one definition will be termed a "lynching" and under another will be bracketed as a "murder." Taking everything into consideration, the killing under notice impresses us as more properly placed in the latter category. There was nothing remotely resembling a mob anywhere in the picture.

Last December the commission on Interracial Relations, the Association of Southern women for the Prevention of Lynching and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People held a joint conference at Tuskegee, which was attended by other Southern leaders, for the purpose of arriving at a definition of lynching which would be satisfactory to all. Apparently complete agreement was never reached for the N. A. A. C. P., which usually has operated under a broader definition than the other two bodies, published a definition soon afterward in its annnal report for 1940 which differed from that carried in the Southern Frontier, the organ of the two Southern interracial agencies.

The N. A. A. C. P. termed a lynching "an activity in which persons in defiance of law administer punishment by death, to an individual for an alleged offense or to an individual with whom some offense has been associated." But the Commission on Interracial Co-operation says a lynching is the killing of a person "by a group acting under the pretext of service to justice, race or tradition."

The classification of the North Carolina killing as a lynching by Tuskegee indicates that something nearer the N. A. A. C. P. definition, rather than the Interracial Commission definition, was used in this particular instance. This seems a mistake, for the N.A.A.C.P. definition is too broad. Can't it be interpreted as placing in the lynching category any homicide in which two men kill another?

> Such a sweeping and all-inclusive use of the term impresses one as utterly unscientific. Moreover, how is one to avoid counting scores of gang killings in the North as lynchings, under its terms?
>
> Actually, then, it would appear that only two genuine lynchings have occurred below the Potomac during the first six months of 1941. If the second half of the year can be kept clean of this stain, and Tuskeegee can be persuaded not to count the Carolina killing, it will be the best year in the South's postbellum history.

Therefore, if we eliminate the North Carolina case, we have only two lynchings so far in 1941. The total for 1940 was five, with none in Florida; for 1939, three with two in Florida; for 1938, six; for 1937 and for 1936, eight each; for 1935, twenty. This record indicates that the evil of lynching is gradually lessening and it will continue at a low ebb as long as law is enforced and education is spread.

A great deal of decrease is due to the work of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, whose members have concentrated on education of public opinion, especially in holding sheriffs accountable for permitting lynchings to occur. The usual lynching, in many instances, can be traced to studied lack of precaution on the part of the officers having the prisoner in custody.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 25, 1941

NEGRO EDITOR CONVINCED

"It is clear that the Melker killing was not strictly a lynching in the ordinary sense."

This statement is from a personal letter to Dr. Henry C. McDowell, president of Lincoln Academy, well known Negro educational institution of Gaston county, from P. B. Young, editor of The Journal and Guide, leading Negro newspaper of Norfolk, Va.

Editor Young's newspaper had, as did many other publications, both white and colored, accepted the semi-annual report of Tuskegee Institute listing the murder of Robert Melker in this county in April as a lynching.

When the evidence was submitted to Editor Young he saw the matter in an entirely different light and has acknowledged the error.

We wonder if President Patterson and his research department at Tuskegee will be as fair and impartial as Editor Young.

Or will Tuskegee risk its reputation for accuracy and fairness by refusing to take the Gaston county crime from its lynching list and so notify the press of America?

The institute's original listing was made without any investigation whatever having been made of this crime.

Talladega, Ala., Daily Home
July 11, 1941

TUSKEGEE STICKS BY LYNCH REPORT

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 11.—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said Thursday a lynching credited to Gaston County, North Carolina, in the first six months of 1941 was "similar to positively recorded lynchings in other states in past years" and consequently no change in the classification "becomes justified".

Patterson's statement, defending the classification of three lynchings listed for the first half of the year by the institute's department of records and research, followed criticism in North Carolina newspapers and by William R. Johnson, Negro consultant of the North Carolina Board of Charities and Public Welfare."

Both the newspapers and Johnson insisted that the crime was "murder", that it grew out of an argument on the scene between white men and a Negro, and that the accused four white men now were serving prison terms ranging from 14 to 25 years.

Johnson declared the Tuskegee statement "should be withdrawn or restated to record two lynchings (in Georgia and Florida) with the name of North Carolina omitted."

Shelby, N. C. Star
July 26, 1941

Interracial Unit Protests Against Lynching Listing

GASTONIA, July 26.—At a special meeting of the executive committee of the Gaston county unit of the North Carolina Interracial commission Thursday afternoon, resolutions were adopted unanimously protesting against the classification of the recent murder of Robert Melker, negro of Gaston county, by Tuskegee Institute as a lynching and challenging the research department of taht institution, through the state and national interracial commissions to send investigators here to discover the facts regarding this crime.

Members of this committee which is composed equally of white and colored, are Rev. Dr. T. M. McDill, Brice T. Dickson, J. W. Atkins, Dr. Henry C. McDowell, Prof. T. Jeffers and Mrs. Maude M. Jeffers.

Dr. McDill, president of the Gaston unit, presided at the committee meeting.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 14, 1941

Broughton Takes Issue With Tuskegee Listing Of Lynching In Gaston

RALEIGH, July 14.—(AP)—Governor Broughton, back at his desk after a two-week vacation, said today there still was a chance that a huge aluminum-producing plant would be built at or near Andrews, in Cherokee county.

The governor said he was working with North Carolina's congressional delegation to obtain the plant. Asked by a reporter whether transportation facilities were adequate near Andrews, Broughton replied that the facilities were just as good as in the vicinity of Aloca, Tenn., where the proposed factory may be built if it is not situated in North Carolina.

Broughton said he had been assured that a $7,000,000 expansion program at the aluminum plant in Badin would be carried out as scheduled, and that a $40,000,000 to $50,000,000 hydro-electric dam would be built at Fontana, on the Little Tennessee river.

In response to questions, Broughton took issue with a recent report of the Tuskegee Institute which listed the homicide of a Negro in Gaston county as a lynching; said he intended to issue a formal statement calling on North Carolinians to conserve gasoline; and said he had signed formal papers giving the state department of labor the power to enforce the Federal wage-hour law.

The Tuskegee Institute's report asserted that Robert Melker, 23, was lynched last April 13, after a rock fight with four white youths.

Broughton said that the Negro was slain, but certainly not lynched, and pointed out that the four white youths were sentenced to long prison terms.

"I think the classification of the case as a lynching was unjust and out of keeping with what I understand a lynching to be," he added. "A lynching is the action of a mob which seeks to replace the due course of justice by taking a person from the hands of the law, or by anticipating the law by taking a person before he is duly arrested."

North Carolina, he said, never before has complained about the classification of a lynching by the institute. The present classification, however, he said, is "unfair to the state and brings into question the authentic basis of the institute's reports, where heretofore have been considered entirely reliable."

Broughton said he had received a letter from Secretary of the Interior Ickes asking him to urge North Carolinians to cooperate in reducing the amount of gasoline used in the state.

"By voluntary response to the appeal, the more drastic steps of regulation and rationing may be avoided," he said.

Broughton's signature to an agreement making the state labor department responsible for enforcement of the wage-hour law makes North Carolina the first state to assume this responsibility.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
July 12, 1941

Gaston Killing Is Lynching So Say The 'Rules'

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 11—(AP)—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said a 1940 conference on lynching here agreed upon the following criteria to be used in reporting such crimes:

1. Existence of dead body (corpus delicti); 2. Person or persons meeting death illegally by a group of three or more individuals; and 3. Said group acting under pretext of service to justice, race or tradition."

Dr. Patterson's explanation was issued in connection with a statement yesterday in which he said a lynching listed for North Carolina during the first half of 1941 was "similar to positively recorded lynchings in other states in past years."

In view of this, Patterson said a change in classification did not seem justified, despite claims from North Carolina newspapers and others that the crime was a murder growing out of an argument on the spot. The perpetrators are all serving prison terms.

[illegible], N. C. News
[illegible] 3, 1941

Lynching Charge Hit

Gastonia To Protest Tuskegee Report

GASTONIA.—Secretary Brice T. Dickson of the Gastonia Chamber of Commerce has taken steps to file an emphatic protest with the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama against the listing of the Easter Sunday slaying of Robert Melker, Gaston County Negro, as a lynching.

The Melker case was included as one of three "lynchings" taking place in the United States during the first half of this year in a report issued by President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee. He listed other lynchings in Florida and Georgia, and charged that the North Carolina case followed "an altercation with a white man."

Secretary Dickson said he would point out that the Gaston County slaying was not regarded as a lynching by anyone in authority in this state and was far different from the generally accepted definition of the term. He said he would enlist the support of local civic clubs and the Interracial Council in protesting the report.

LONG RECORD

He pointed out that Gaston County has had no lynching in 60 years and does not want this black mark against its long record of good relations between the black and white race.

The case in question occurred on Sunday April 13, when Melker was shot and killed at his home near Cherryville, following a rock fight which grew out of an argument with four white boys, Graham and Haywood Dellinger, Robert Sellers, and Fred Hudson. The four boys were arrested within 24 hours, and within ten days after the shooting they were sentenced to prison terms ranging from 14 to 25 years, which they are now serving.

The evidence at the trial here before Judge Frank Armstrong showed that Sellers was wounded when the mother of the Negro broke up the rock fight by firing a shotgun. It was also alleged that the Negro man had a gun, which he had no opportunity to use, when the white boys returned to his farm home after leaving to obtain two shotguns. The killing of Melker grew entirely out of incidents of

Charlotte, N. C., News
July 14, 1941

Takes Issue With Report

Broughton Calls Gaston Case Slaying

RALEIGH — (AP) — Governor Broughton today took issue with the report of the Tuskegee Institute which listed the homicide of a Negro in Gaston County as a lynching.

The Tuskegee Institute's report asserted that Robert Milker, 23, was lynched last April 13, after a rock fight with four white youths.

Broughton said that the Negro was slain, but certainly not lynched, and pointed out that the four white youths were sentenced to long prison terms.

"I think the classification of the case as a lynching was unjust and out of keeping with what I understand a lynching to be," he added. "A lynching is the action of a mob which seeks to replace the due course of justice by taking a person from the hands of the law, or by anticipating the law by taking a person before he is duly arrested."

North Carolina, he said, never before has complained about the classification of a lynching by the Institute. The present classification, however, he said, is "unfair to the state and brings into question the authentic basis of the Institute's reports, where heretofore have been considered entirely reliable."

Danville, Va., Register
July 11, 1941

Tuskegee Head Refutes N. C. 'Murder' Claims

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 10.—(AP)—Dr F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said today a lynching credited to Gastoon County, North Carolina, in the first six months of 1941 was "similar to positively recorded lynchings in other states in past years" and consequently no change in the classification "seems justified."

Patterson's statement, defending the classification of three lynchings listed for the first half of the year by the institute's department of records and research, followed criticism in North Carolina newspapers and by William R. Johnson, Negro consultant of the North Carolina Board of Charities and Public Welfare.

The newspapers and Johnson insisted that the crime was "murder," that it grew out of an argument on the scene between white men and a Negro, and that the accused four white men now were serving prison terms ranging from 14 to 25 years.

Johnson declared the Tuskegee statement "should be withdrawn or restated to record two lynchings (in Georgia and Florida) with the name of North Carolina omitted."

Lumberton, N. C. Robesonian
July 14, 1941

Tuskegee Head Stands Pat On Lynching Report

Tuskegee, Ala. —(AP)— Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said a lynching credited to Gaston County, North Carolina, in the first six months of 1941 was "similar to positively recorded lynchings in other states in past years" and consequently there would be no change in the classification of three lynchings listed for the first half of the year by the Institute's department of records and research.

His statement followed criticism in North Carolina newspapers and by William R. Johnson, Negro consultant of the North Carolina Board of Charities and Public Welfare.

The newspapers and Johnson insisted that the crime was "murder," that it grew out of an argument on the scene between white men and a Negro, and that the accused four white men now were serving prison terms ranging from 14 to 25 years.

Johnson declared the Tuskegee statement "should be withdrawn or restated to record two lynchings (in Georgia and Florida) with the name of North Carolina omitted."

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
July 12, 1941

Defends Tuskegee Report.

To The Observer:

In reference to the attack on Tuskegee Institute for listing the recent occurrance which caused the death of a Gaston county Negro citizen last April, I am answering in defense of Tuskegee.

I am a student of Tuskegee and from the experience of being there I have found that the annual Tuskegee lynching poll is of the greatest authority. Tuskegee takes great care in ferreting out al facts and investigating such occurrences. Their opinions which are backed by facts, cannot be overlooked.

According to my understanding of this matter, any act of mob law, regardless of the justification of such an act is wholly beyond the law, and should be defined as a lynching.

This is not a reflection on the state of North Carolina but it is a condition existing in the South.

With due credit to the State of North Carolina and its citizens, I think we should accept this occurrence and face the issue as it really is.

Our problem is not to justify such acts of this kind but to try and prevent them in the future.

FRANK BROWN.

Charlotte.

Hickory, N. C. Record
July 11, 1941

Tuskegee Will Not Change Records On 'Lynching' In N. C.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 11.—(AP)—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said today a lynching credited to Gaston county, North Carolina, in the first six months of 1941 was "similar to positively recorded lynchings in other states in past years" and consequently there would be no change in the classification of three lynchings listed for the first half of the year by the institute's department of records and research.

His statement followed criticism in North Carolina newspapers and by William R. Johnson, negro consultant of the North Carolina Board of Charities and Public Welfare.

The newspapers and Johnson insisted that the crime was "murder," that it grew out of an argument on the scene between white men and a negro, and that the accused four white men now were serving prison terms ranging from fourteen to twenty-five years.

Johnson declared the Tuskegee statement "should be withdrawn or restated to record two lynchings (in Georgia and Florida) with the name of North Carolina omitted."

Burlington, N. C., Times-News
July 9, 1941

Row Increases Over Claiming Lynching In N. C.

Raleigh, July 9—(AP)—The action of Tuskegee Institute in attributing a lynching to Gaston county was challenged yesterday by William R. Johnson, negro consultant of the state board of charities and public welfare.

Johnson said "the incident in Gaston county was a deliberate murder and the perpetrators are now serving sentences ranging from 14 to 25 years. The court record stands for itself. x x x In this case the ends of justice have been met."

The death of a Gaston county negro last April was numbered as one of the three lynchings which the institute said occurred in the United States in the first half of the year. Johnson said the statement "should be withdrawn or restated to record two lynchings with the name of North Carolina omitted."

Charlotte, N. C., Star of Zion
July 17, 1941

When Is A Lynching?

Various authorities and editors from Gaston County to the Governor of the State of North Carolina have vigorously protested the recent report of Tuskegee Institute, which designated the killing of Robert Milker, near Gastonia, last April 13, as a lynching. Even after this protest had been sent to Dr. Patterson, the latter issued a statement in which he set forth that the killing fitted into the criterion of a lynching as established through the years and, therefore, the report could not be changed.

This sort of a controversy is exactly what we anticipated would arise, because theories and practices of lynching have changed within recent years. Governor Broughton said: "I think the classification of the case as a lynching was unjust and out of keeping with what I understand a lynching to be." He added, "A lynching is the action of a mob which seeks to replace the due course of justice by taking a person from the hands of the law, or anticipating the law by taking a person before he is duly arrested."

The Star of Zion, which has been published in North Carolina for 65 years, is proud of the fine progress that has been made in race relations in the state, and the added fact that for many years no lynching has occurred within the state. And, as much as we regret to acknowledge the fact, it seems to us that by the governor's own definition Tuskegee Institute is justified in making the classification. The only possible doubt would be on the point of what constitutes a mob. The research department of Tuskegee says, "three or more."

General Mecklenburg, writing in the Charlotte Observer, says that Milker was killed by one man, but in the same statement admits that all four of the participants were convicted and are now serving sentences for the killing.

Again insisting that we would like very much to have this blot removed from the record of North Carolina, we also call attention to the fact that if the four youths who committed the murder had not gone away after the first altercation, and then returned, deliberately and concertedly to kill their victim, there could have been no justification whatsoever in designating them as a "mob" and their deed as a "lynching." But the unfortunate fact is true, and, notwithstanding Gaston County and the State of North Carolina deserve much credit for meting out quick justice to the perpetrators of the crime, it seems to us that we should not allow our pride to blind our eyes to the facts. It is undoubtedly a marginal case, which raises questions, which we are not prepared to answer fully. But if Tuskeegee Institute reports have been valuable and trustworthy in the past, it is because they have been based upon facts established by a definite group of criteria, which experience has produced. Until the rules have been changed, we cannot justifiably blame Tuskegee for making a classification strictly in accordance therewith.

Salisbury, N. C. Post
July 20, 1941

GRIEVOUS ERROR

Charlotte Observer

The authorities of Tuskegee Institute are making a mistake that is going to be enduringly damaging to the good name of that good institution by refusing to correct the mistake they made in classifying the murder of a Negro in Gaston county as a lynching and giving it nation-wide circulation.

Respectful petitions have been made to the officials of this eminent Negro institution by individuals, various organizations, the newspapers, and now Governor Broughton officially repudiates the claim that the Gaston episode constituted a lynching.

The Rev. William R. Johnson, the Negro consultant of the State Board of Public Welfare, has been among the most outspoken in his condemnation of the error.

By general agreement, the Tuskegee statisticians have grievously blundered in the first instance by classifying this murder as a lynching and charging it against the good name of North Carolina, and is now accentuating that error by stubbornly refusing to heed the earnest protests and petitions in support of an official correction from that source.

These Tuskegee officials will not be required to live very long before seeing visible evidence of the folly of this policy.

This is an institution that stands high in the esteems of the white people of the South. It has earned and often received the eulogiums of the public, the pulpit and the press of this whole area. The work it is doing is of such a high and constructive order that it is held up for admonition, not only because of the prestige it gained from Booker T. Washington's administration of its affairs, but because of its continuingly effectual services, as one of the power houses of the South for an improved and enlightened order of life for the Negroes.

But the attitude now being taken in this case, the obvious mistake that was first made and now the more obvious arrogance of the executives of the institution in refusing to give decent attention to the waves of righteous protest being made from the good people of North Carolina, is going to lessen this public esteem and do great damage to the name of that institution in this commonwealth, and everywhere else that a fair minded public learns of the incident in all of its factual phases.

Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
July 21, 1941

Wanted: An Impartial Board

In its handling of the Gaston county case and in other instances Tuskegee Institute has demonstrated its incapacity to deal with Southern lynching statistics objectively.

This is not surprising. We could hardly expect a Negro institution located in a region where in time past and present many indignities and indiscriminations have been heaped upon the Negro race, to view the Southern sociological scene as from a high mountain top. It would be contrary to human nature.

What is needed for a fair, impartial handling of statistics and propaganda on the lynching of Negroes in the South and the nation at large, for that matter, is a representative board set up by one of the great national foundations, such as Rockefeller, Rosenwald, or the General Education Board, to investigate all instances of mob activity, carefully gather the data, compile statistics, and determine in conference the actual number of homicides within any given period which may be classified as a lynching. This board should have members of both the white and Negro races as representatives thereon in the interest of complete fairness. This is the only logical way to handle lynching statistics. The Tuskegee system condemns itself.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
July 5, 1941

Hurting a Cause

Tuskegee Institute, we believe, makes a serious mistake in listing as a lynching the death of a Negro man near Cherryville, this state, who was killed in a fracas with four white boys last April.

That the killing was a heinous offense, an unpardonable, repulsive offense, no intelligent mind gainsays. The white people of the community fully appreciated its gravity and a Gaston county jury was busily engaged in trying the young offenders within a few days after the slaying. The defendants were arrested within 24 hours after the event. In a speedy trial they were convicted, two receiving indeterminate sentences of 18 to 25 years in state prison, two others drawing sentences of 14 to 20 years. Apparently liquor figured in the affray which began as a battle of thrown stones and grew into a shooting affair when the mother of the slain Negro fired a shotgun. Under circumstances a verdict of manslaughter and the sentencing of all four white defendants to serve long prison terms would appear to have met the ends of justice.

Patently, there were no aspects of a lynching here, if by the term we mean community mob sentiment. No one would have called such an affair a lynching had all the principals been of the white race. No one would have called it a lynching had all the principals been members of the Negro race. And here, it occurs, lies the infallible guide in determining what properly may be designated an instance of mob violence.

Another distinguishing characteristic of a lynching is that it must represent the effort of individuals or groups to "take the law into their own hands." That is, the killers do not kill merely because they are engaged in a drunken fight with somebody, or because they are determined to murder an individual for his money, etc. They set out to inflict punishment upon certain persons for acts the latter purportedly have committed. They invoke the justice of Judge Lynch.

If the Gaston county killing was a lynching, then there were scores of lynchings in North Carolina last year. Charlotte, we believe, had upwards of 50 murders in 1940, and according to the Tuskegee listing of the Cherryville case, all of those killings were lynchings, which, as The News and Observer suggests that silliness has taken the place of sense in the Tuskegee statistics. And this does injury to the anti-lynching cause.

Hickory, N. C. Record
July 3, 1941

NO LYNCHINGS IN STATE

It is unfortunate that Tuskegee Institute, in reporting three lynchings of negroes during the first six months of this year, has included the murder of a Gaston county colored farmer near Cherryville on April 13, as a "lynching".

The farmer in question was shot and killed at his home following a rock fight which resulted in an argument with four white boys. Within ten days after the slaying all four of the boys were sentenced to prison terms ranging from fourteen to twenty-five years — and are now serving their sentences.

The testimony at the trial showed that one of the white boys was wounded when the mother of the negro who was later murdered, broke up the rock fight by firing a shotgun. It was also alleged the colored man had a gun which he had no opportunity to use when the white boys returned to his farm after having themselves secured two shotguns.

The Record does not condone lynching, and furthermore we are not attempting to justify the killing of the negro involved in the controversy in question. Nevertheless, we hold that by no stretch of the meaning of the term is President Patterson of Tuskegee justified in going so far afield to charge North Carolina with a lynching as a consequence of such a murder.

The people of this State are proud of the progress that has been made in the suppression of lynchings—and the leaders of the negro race will make a grave mistake if they insist on making an issue of the Cherryville slaying.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
July 6, 1941

THREE MORE LYNCHINGS

It is discouraging to read the news from Tuskegee Institute that three lynchings, all with Negroes for victims, have been recorded for the first half of 1941—discouraging because last year there was not a single one. Yet, a few years ago three lynchings in half a year would have been regarded as a remarkable stride toward a better age. The South has come far in this past decade in the matter of lynching; and the progress was made through education, through interracial action, by a general advance in racial tolerance. No Federal laws forced the South to make a good fight upon the worst feature of its social life.

So from a broader viewpoint, even a total of three lynchings in the first half of 1941 compared to none in all of 1940 is no matter for despair. These are not days in which justice for the helpless is emphasized. Wartime is not favorable to the growth of tolerance, and "emergency defense" is the next door to war. The Nation forgets its impulses toward mercy when it is talking mainly about guns, bombs and battleships. The very fact that under such conditions, lynching has not made a greater revival is a matter for some congratulation. It will take a good deal of brutalizing before the South returns to the days when annual lynchings were numbered by the score.

It is no matter of despair, then, that there were three lynchings in the first six months of 1941. But since last year did pass without one, a renewal must be nipped in the bud. Southerners can take action at once to publicize these three steps back into a darker age; the States in which they occurred should explain why nothing was done to punish the leaders of the mob; the South can act immediately to condemn the three outrages. Attempted rape was not the cause of a majority of even these three crimes. It accounted for only one of them. The other two involved stealing from an employer and an altercation with a white man.

The brief Tuskegee report cannot be ignored. Georgia was one of the States in which a lynching occurred. The others took place in North Carolina and Florida. A State Governor can make no better fight for traditional American liberty than to punish these mob crimes. Governor Talmadge might even turn aside from his strange crusade against "foreigners" at the University of Georgia to investigate the one lynching in his State. The result of a vigorous probe might not attract as many voters as a spectacular fight against a group of helpless schoolteachers, but it would be infinitely more worthwhile.

Pensacola, Fla. Journal
July 5, 1941

Three Lynchings In Dixie Reported

Georgia, Florida And South Carolina Listed

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 4.—(AP)—Three lynchings, one each in Georgia, Florida and North Carolina, were reported for the first six months of 1941 by Tuskegee Institute.

All of the victims were Negroes, it said, and T. R. Broady, assistant in research at the institute, listed the cases and circumstances thus.

"1—April 20, Gaston county, near Cherryville, N. C., Robert Melker, Negro, charged with altercation with white men; shot to death in home by four men.

"2—May 6, Blakely, Early county, Georgia, Robert Sapp, Negro, suspected of stealing from his employer; flogged with a club and pieces of machine belting.

"3—May 13, Quincy, Gadsden county, Florida, A. C. Williams, Negro, charged with attempted rape upon 12-year-old white girl, beaten and body riddled with bullets."

Selma, Ala., Times Journal
July 9, 1941

Negro Challenges Lynching Report Made By Tuskegee

RALEIGH, N. C., July 9.—(AP)—William R. Johnson, negro consultant of the North Carolina Board of Charities and Public Welfare, today challenged the action of Tuskegee Institute in attributing a lynching to Gaston County, North Carolina.

The institute recently reported three lynchings had occurred in the United States in the first half of the year, and the death of a Gaston County negro last April was included in the list.

"The incident in Gaston County was a deliberate murder," declared Johnson, "and the perpetrators are now serving sentences ranging from 14 to 25 years. The court record stands for itself."

"In this case," Johnson said, "the ends of justice have been met. It indicates that here in North Carolina a premium is placed upon human life, regardless of race, creed, or color. This is just the thing for which negroes have fought throughout the years, and we hope that the examples set by North Carolina will be followed by other States."

The Tuskegee statement, Johnson asserted, "should be withdrawn or restated to record two lynchings, with the name of North Carolina omitted."

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
July 3, 1941

N. C. Lynching Report Denied

Raleigh (UP).—State officials today took exception to a report by the Tuskegee Institute of Tuskegee, Ala., showing a lynching in North Carolina last April—the first in many years—and said the incident could hardly be classified as a lynching.

An investigation showed Robert Melker, 23, Negro, of Gaston county, was shot and killed at his home near Cherryville following a rock fight with four white boys. All four of the men who participated in the shooting were sentenced to prison.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 4, 1941

SILLINESS INTO LYNCH STATISTICS

(News and Observer)

The eradication of lynching in the South will not be served by any such broadening of the definition of the term to include such a murder, already sternly punished, as has been put down in this year's statistics against North Carolina's name as one of the three lynchings of the year in the United States.

This murder, which took place in Gaston county last April, can only by distortion be called a lynching. Its description as a lynching makes all other killings everywhere, so classified, suspect as to their true character. Its listing as a lynching does a serious injustice to the Southern State which has had fewer true lynchings across all the years than any other.

Here was a case in which four white hoodlums in the town of Cherryville went on a rampage in which they killed a Negro man. There was absolutely no feeling in the community against the Negro. He was merely the victim of a bunch of drunks. Within 24 hours all of the four white men were arrested and in jail. Within 10 days they had been tried and sentenced to long terms in the penitentiary. The killers, as the State's own courts held, were unquestionable criminals, but they represented only their own drunken violence and reflected the feeling of no part of the community but themselves.

No decent North Carolinian would think of trying to defend these four drunken toughs who picked a fight with an innocent colored man and killed him as a part of it. But North Carolina does resent having their crime listed as a lynching against the name of the State or against the community in the State which promptly demonstrated its stern disapproval by sending three of the white men to prison for from 18 to 25 years and one who took no part in the shooting, to prison for from 14 to 20 years.

Calling such a case a lynching will not help eliminate lynchings but it will help to destroy the value of these lynching statistics in the propaganda against lynching in the South and everywhere else. Undoubtedly it may be true, as some Negro leaders say, that lynchings may be done by smaller groups than old roaring mobs. A few men, of course, could do the violent will of an angered community in resorting to extra-legal measures in snatching defendants from the law and putting them to death. The numbers of the killers is not the essence of definition. Nor is it essential that the victim be a supposed perpetrator of a crime. There may be true lynchings which do not fit old-fashioned definitions. But one of the absolute essentials of any definition is commonsense. In this case that has been absolutely disregarded and the result is not so much an injury to Gaston county and North Carolina as it is a blow to the sense and reliability of lynching statistics.

Despite the Tuskegee announcement, no lynching took place in North Carolina during the period covered by this report. Far otherwise, what did happen was a demonstration that white justice in this State is ready to move sternly and swiftly against rough-neck white roisterers who resort to murderous violence against a Negro. For the friends of the Negro to use this case to stigmatize the State rather than praise it indicates that silliness has taken the place of sense in their statistics. As long as this case is listed among their statistics their value will be reduced and the whole process of effective protest against true lynchings will be delayed.

Burlington, N. C., Times-News
July 11, 1941

WAS THIS LYNCHING?

CONSIDERABLE COMMENT has been made in North Carolina newspapers recently about the classification of the death of a negro in Gaston county as a lynching. The classification was made by the Tuskegee Institute, which compiles and release periodically records of lynchings in the nation.

Latest development in the case is that Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the Institute, insists that the death of the negro was "similar to positively recorded lynchings in other states in past years" and consequently there would be no change in the classification. Hence North Carolina, Florida and Georgia are charged with one lynching each during the first six months of 1941.

Newspapers in and around Gaston county have been vigorous in their denunciation of the classification and they have been joined in their stand by William R. Johnson, negro consultant of the North Carolina Board of Charities and Welfare. The newspapers and Johnson have insisted that the crime was "murder," that it grew out of an argument between white men and a negro, and that the accused four white men are now serving prison terms ranging from 14 to 25 years.

The Charlotte News has reported that the best information its reporters were able to gather was that the four white men had been drinking, that they were riding up and down the streets making obscene remarks to negroes and that when they made certain remarks to the wife of the negro in question he resented them. The white men are alleged to have followed the negro man and his wife home, engaged in further argument and then left. Later the white men returned and the negro man was shot to death.

If these are the facts, it would appear that it is, as Consultant Johnson maintains, purely a murder following a dispute. The negro was charged with no crime, he had not been jailed, he was not removed from the custody of officers and, in the usually accepted sense of the term, there was no lynching. Premeditated murder may have been a justifiable charge since the white men returned to the scene after procuring a gun or guns. But the element of lynching, as the term is generally accepted in this state, was not present.

Lumberton, N. C. Robesonian
July 8, 1941

SLIPPED UP THIS TIME

Tuskeegee institute, well-known Alabama Negro institution founded by Booker T. Washington, for many years has been keeping the lynching records and its reports have been accepted as entirely accurate, but it has made a serious error in its report for the first six months of 1941.

Tuskeegee reports three lynchings for the first six months of this year and North Carolinians were amazed to see that this state was credited with one of them; and the cause, "altercation with white men."

The North Carolina killing classed in that report as a lynching was a homicide and had none of the aspects of a lynching. It happened in Gaston county. Some drunken white men passed by a Negro cabin, shouted some insults, the Negroes threw rocks. The white men, one of them too drunk to take part, returned with a gun, the Negro appeared on his porch with a gun and before he could fire a blast from the back seat of the car killed him. It apparently was a brutal murder growing out of unprovoked insults by the white men, who were tried and given prison sentences; but it could not be classed as a lynching. Tuskeegee should make public correction of the error.

The other two reported lynchings were one in Florida, one in Georgia; and the offenses charged attempted rape and stealing from employer.

Concord. N. C. Tribune
July 7, 1941

SILLINESS INTO LYNCH STATISTICS.

News and Observer.

The eradication of lynching in the South will not be served by any such broadening of the definition of the term to include such a murder, already sternly punished, as has been put down in this year's statistics against North Carolina's name as one of the three lynchings of the year in the United States.

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No decent North Carolinian would think of trying to defend these four drunken toughs who picked a fight with an innocent colored man and killed him as a part of it. But North Carolina does resent having their crime listed as a lynching against the name of the State or against the community in the State which promptly demonstrated its stern disapproval by sending three of the white men to prison for from 18 to 25 years and one who took no part in the shooting, to prison for from 14 to 20 years.

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Despite the Tuskegee announcement, no lynching took place in North Carolina during the period covered by this report. Far otherwise, what did happen was a demonstration that white justice in this State is ready to move sternly and swiftly against roughneck white roisterers who resort to murderous violence against a Negro. For the friends of the Negro to use this case to stigmatize the State rather than praise it indicates that silliness has taken the place of sense in their statistics. As long as this case is listed among their tatistics thetr value will be reduced and the whole process of effective protect against true lynchings will be delayed.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 10, 1941

TIME FOR A RETRACTION

Enough time has elapsed since the publication of that erroneous statement from Tuskegee Institute about the so-called lynching in Gaston county, North Carolina, for a retraction or for a statement of some kind. So far none has come.

Every evidence that would be needed has been forwarded to the Tuskegee authorities to show them that the killing of one Robert Melker, colored, was a deliberate murder, not a lynching, and that the murderers are now serving long penitentiary terms for their crime; that the sheriff and law enforcing authorities of this county took prompt and vigorous action to apprehend the murderers, and that their trial was held without delay.

It is high time that the lynching research authorities at Tuskegee let it be known that they were mistaken. A month before their report came out the facts as to this alleged lynching were furnished them. They chose to disregard them and to rely on their own source of data and material, probably secured from the radical organization, the Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The statement furnished by Rev. William Johnson, Negro consultant of the N. C. Board of Charities and Public Welfare, published here yesterday is the strongest refutation so far of the Tuskegee report. Speaking of this report, The News and Observer says:

"But the most important feature of this repudiation of the Tuskegee is that it is based upon undisputable facts.

"Not only did the killing in Gaston County lack all of the elements of a lynching, those who did the killing have been punished and punished severely.

"This kind of silliness in statistics defeats the very aims of those who wish to eradicate the horrible crime of lynching. If every murder of a Negro is to be termed a lynching for no earthly reason except that it was committed by a white man, the whole point of the warfare upon lynching is lost. Once the impression is gained that statistics relating to lynchings are unreliable such statistics lose all value. Such an impression is inescapable on the part of those who know the facts in connection with the Gaston County killing. Moreover, inclusion of this murder in the list of lynchings places Tuskegee Institute in the unenviable position of holding up to shame the State of North Carolina for an occurrence for which the State, because of the prompt and effective action of its courts, deserves the praise rather than the blame of all friends of the Negro race and all foes of lynching.

"Both for the sake of its own reputation for accuracy and for the sake of the cause which it espouses, Tuskegee Institute should correct promptly its lists of lynchings for the first six months of 1941."

Asheville, N. C., Times
July 7, 1941

Tuskegee Makes A Bad Error

THE usually careful and accurate Tuskegee Institute report on lynchings makes a regrettable error, and one with little excuse, in charging North Carolina with one of the three mob killings said to have occurred in the first six months of 1941.

This newspaper is confident that any jury of North Carolina Negroes would hear the facts and declare that the killing of a Negro at Cherryville last April by four drunk and quarrelsome white men was not, in any reasonable sense whatever, a lynching.

Nor did the consequences of this brutal act against an unoffending Negro, who enjoyed the respect of his white neighbors, run true to lynch form. For within 24 hours all of these drunks were arrested and within ten days all four had been sentenced to long terms in the state prison. Thus promptly acted the law of a state whose record shows fewer lynchings than any other Southern state.

The dictionary, the courts and common sense agree that lynching means unlawful killing committed by some group (or some one representing such group) which takes upon itself the right to punish for some real or alleged offense. Lynching, furthermore, is the overt manifestation of mass excitement or hysteria in some form.

But in the Cherryville case four drunken hoodlums acted only as a result of their own violent debauchery, without a single supporting voice or suggestion from the rest of the Cherryville community; and there was no complaint or charge of any kind against the victim.

If this was lynching, then all the definitions of homicide and mob killing set forth in the law books will have to be rewritten.

Lexington, N. C. Dispatch
July 10, 1941

NOT A LYNCHING

CONSIDERABLE resentment has been manifested in editorial circles in North Carolina during the past few days over the lynching survey of the Tuskegee Institute which reported one lynching in this State in the first half of 1941. This resentment was justified by the statement at Raleigh Tuesday of W. R. Johnson, colored consultant of the state board of charities and public welfare, who declared the killing of Robert Melker in Gaston county was plain murder and no lynching at all. Johnson asserted that such lack of care on the part of the great Alabama negro institu-

tion constituted a serious reflection on the products of its research in the field of human relations.

If the personal element may be pardoned, this writer can state that he is personally acquainted with the facts concerning the murder of Melker, which occurred in his boyhood community. We also visited the scene a few days afterward, while the blood of the victim was still spattered on the newly painted weatherboarding of his home. This place is owned by the writer's brother-in-law, under whom Melker worked for a Cherryville textile concern. It can be stated that had the four young white men, who while fired up with drink went on a rampage through the community, not plead guilty to second degree murder the week following the crime they would have been vigorously prosecuted for first degree murder. And some of the best white citizens of the community stood ready to testify for the state. We heard of no white person in the immediate community concerned who was not indignant over the crime. It was a beastly crime and those who committed it were given sentences running from 14 to 25 years in state prison. There was not the slightest hint that any but the four young drunks were involved in the slaying of the young negro who had vigorously resented vile remarks hurled at him and his young bride by the drunken [illegible], who were saved from even worse fate than befell them from the law on the excuse of drunken irresponsibility.

It so happens that this writer more than a quarter century ago reported the trial of a white man in Gastonia who in a drunken spree had stabbed an inoffensive negro youth to death. One of the leading lawyers of Gastonia volunteered his services and aided the solicitor in a determined prosecution. The white man was convicted of second degree murder and given a long term in prison.

In consequence of this bit of history, it is particularly unfortunate that the Tuskegee survey should have run afoul of such a misstatement. Charity would direct one to the conclusion, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, that some smart aleck imposed upon the institute's research department.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 7, 1941

NO LYNCHING

(Charlotte News)

By reporting the murder of Robert Melker near Cherryville last Easter as "one of the three lynchings in the South during the first half of 1941," Tuskegee Institute has not helped the cause it champions. Robert Melker was not lynched. There was no mob violence, no laxity of law enforcement. The young Negro was murdered and the four men responsible for the crime were convicted of murder and given long prison sentences.

Here are the facts as gathered and summed up by Tim Pridgen of The News:

On Easter morning four white men in their twenties assembled in Cherryville, Gaston county—Graham and Haywood Dellinger, brothers, of Cherryville; Fred Hudson, also of Cherryville, and Robert Sellers, of a nearby community in Cleveland county—and proceed to celebrate the day, drinking beer, wine and whiskey.

As one phase of their celebration they rode, in Sellers' Model A Ford car, through the streets of Freedman, the Negro section of Cherryville, shouting obscenities at the Negro women in sight.

A continuation of their revel took them to the highways where, five miles from Cherryville, they ran across Robert Melker, 23, Negro, and his bride of a week, Mary Lee, 21, just as they had turned from the short road to their home in a roadside field into the highway. The white men shouted insulting remarks to the Negroes. A brief quarrel ensued as Melker resented the insult, telling his wife that he wasn't going to stand for being "disgraced." The white men stopped the car and the two parties threw rocks at each other as the Negroes retreated to their home, holding their attackers back with stones. No one, apparently, was struck in this battle. At the home Melker's mother, Elmina, ordered the white men off the property and when they made no response, fired in their direction with a shotgun. They left, with no injury, except one claimed a minor injury to his face.

That was about "milking time"—probably six o'clock. Two hours later, soon after dark, the white men returned, bringing guns. Elmina heard them coming and ordered all, including Robert and Mary Lee and other children and some visiting children, into the house, but when the white men were overheard to say among themselves that they would "get 'em if they had to break every window in the house" Robert stepped out the back door with his gun, his nine-year-old brother Carl at his side. He did not shoot nor were any words passed. The white men opened fire and riddled him, shooting him eight or nine times and causing his immediate death.

As the white men drove out of the place and reached the highway intersection they passed Frank Melker, Robert's father, coming home in his car, and took a pot shot at him, hitting the car but not injuring him.

They went then two miles across the highway to a place called Shady Grove and stopped at a white man's filling station. They quarreled and fought among themselves, the filling station keeper being unable to quiet them. They turned on a Negro, named McClooney, who had driven in for gasoline, shot his tires down, broke the glass from his car and battered his face with a beer bottle, doing injury requiring eight surgical stitches to close. McClooney's child in the car became terrified and the filling station keeper, otherwise apparently helpless, rushed out and rescued the little one, keeping it safe in the store during the attack on the father. Another Negro, Caldwell Locan, drove up in his car and the assailants drove him off with a shot through his fenders.

The four were arrested, charged with murder, tried in Gaston County Superior Court, submitted to second degree murder, and were sentenced to the penitentiary—G. Dellinger and Hudson for 14-20 years; H. Dellinger and Sellers for 18-25 years.

These facts were given by the parent Melkers at their home and are not disputed by anyone, and are much the same as those given in the trial.

I talked with Elmina, the mother, and Frank, the father, and with Carl, the lad who accompanied Robert Melker out the back door, and with Solicitor John G. Carpenter, who prosecuted the defendants, and with Attorney Ernest Warren, who was employed by Frank Melker to assist the solicitor in the prosecution. It seemed to me that from these sympathetic sources I would find the best evidence, if any, of those elements which are generally accepted in the meaning of the word "lynching." I found none.

There was no community resentment against the Melkers, either before or after the shooting. There was nothing in the "milking time" altercation which concerned anyone except those immediately involved. The shooting was purely an aftermath of the altercation, and there was not the least evidence of community support for the killers. On the other hand, white friends of the Melkers made up the fund with which Frank Melker paid his lawyer.

This brutal crime reflects enough discredit upon us Tar Heels without attaching to it the inaccurate label of "lynching."

Unfortunately, the Tuskegee Institute misinformation will be widely circulated in the North where it will fall upon ears conditioned by "Tobacco Road" and atrocity stories, real and imaginary.

Lacking the full information about the incident, many thousands of persons undoubtedly will be misled, as Tuskegee officials apparently were, into a false conclusion.

The publicity will be bad for the State; in the end it will be bad for Tuskegee. But more important still, it will confuse the minds of many Southerners who understand the problem of lynching and who are working diligently for its eradication.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
July 9, 1941

Should Be Correction

The report of the Tuskegee Institute recording the murder of a Negro in Gaston County last April as a lynching has been repudiated by William R. Johnson, Negro consultant of the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare.

This repudiation cannot be dismissed on the ground that it reflects State pride. It is true that the author is both a resident of North Carolina and a State employe. But neither he nor the Negroes of this State for whom he speaks have ever been hesitant in both admitting and denouncing any injustice to members of their race.

But the most important feature of this repudiation of the Tuskee report is that it is based upon undisputable facts.

Not only did the killing in Gaston County lack all of the elements of a lynching, those who did the killing have been punished and punished severely.

This kind of silliness in statistics defeats the very aims of those who wish to eradicate the horrible crime of lynching. If every murder of a Negro is to be termed a lynching for no earthly reason except that it was committed by a white man, the whole point of the warfare upon lynching is lost. Once the impression is gained that statistics relating to lynchings are unreliable such statistics lose all value. Such an impression is inescapable on the part of those who know the facts in connection with the Gaston County killing. Moreover, inclusion of this murder in the list of lynchings places Tuskegee Institute in the unenviable position of holding up to shame the State of North Carolina for an occurrence for which the State, because of the prompt and effective action of its courts, deserves the praise rather than the blame of all friends of the Negro race and all foes of lynching.

Both for the sake of its own reputation for accuracy and for the sake of the cause which it espouses, Tuskegee Institute should correct promptly its list of lynchings for the first six months of 1941.

Savannah, Ga., News
July 4, 1941

Lynching Record.

Albany Herald: There were three lynchings in the United States during the first six months of 1941. According to records compiled by Tuskegee Institute, one occurred in Florida, one in Georgia, and one in North Carolina. All the victims were negroes. One was charged with attempted rape, another with stealing from his employer, and the third with "altercation with white men."

The fact that there has been steady improvement in the nation's lynching record cannot fail to be pleasing, yet three cases of such lawlessness in any six-month period should give concern to those who believe that obedience to constituted authority is "one of the mud-sills of a democracy." One lynching in any year is one too many, for it represents a conspiracy of men to defeat the ends of justice and weaken the structure of government.

If the victim of a mob deserves death, it is a reasonable assumption that he will receive justice at the hands of the courts. No mob inflamed by passion is competent to judge a man accused of crime, and its members become criminals when they take the law into their own hands.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 17, 1941

NOT SURPRISING

At the risk of permitting the matter to become boring and tiresome to our readers, we are referring once again to the Tuskegee Institute report on lynching, which recorded the murder of Robert Melker as a lynching.

The persistent refusal of the Tuskegee authorities to retract or review their conclusions on the Melker affair, in the light of the repeated protests and offers of conclusive evidence from Gaston county and North Carolina showing that the affair was not a lynching, will have a most unfavorable reaction on the Negro college.

However, in the light of more information received from the institution as to the methods by which it was determined that this was a lynching, it is not surprising that such an illogical and unfair conclusion was reached. Two of the members of the committee to whom the data and information were submitted for study and conclusions were Mrs. Jessie Daniels Ames, Executive Director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, and Walter White, Executive Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. If there are two more biased or more prejudiced judges, we do not know of them, particularly the latter. This man Walter White, almost white in color, a very light mulatto, hob-nobs with the leading gentry in Washington, is a powerful politician and cracks the whip over the heads of the representatives from districts in which the colored vote is influential. He is one of the most indefatigable workers in the United States for the cause of the Negro, which, in itself, is a worthy cause, but he is unprincipled and prejudiced in the methods he uses to secure legislation and to influence members of Congress.

If he had anything to do or say about this alleged Gaston county lynching, we may be sure that he would find the worst features about it.

In arriving at their conclusion that the Melker shooting was a lynching, the Tuskegee authorities after calling in the above two people, arrived at the following description of a lynching as a working basis for the classification of a lynching:

1—A dead body (corpus delicti).

2—Persons or a person who met death illegally.

3.—Persons or a person who met death at the hands of a mob.

4.—The group acting under pretense of service to justice, race or tradition.

Those familiar with the history of the case know that under no conditions could the Melker case come under the above classification, with the exception of one and two. It was a plain out and out murder and it was so determined by the law enforcing agencies of the county and state.

After learning that the Tuskegee authorities are so thick with Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, and with Walter White, the foremost propagandist and button holer in the United States, we are not surprised at the conclusion reached. We repeat, however, that Dr. Patterson, one of the successors of the worthy Booker T. Washington, who founded the institution, will live to regret his stubborn refusal to reconsider this report.

GRIEVOUS ERROR

(Charlotte Observer)

The authorities of Tuskegee Institute are making a mistake that is going to be enduringly damaging to the good name of that good institution by refusing to correct the mistake they made in classifying the murder of a Negro in Gaston county as a lynching and giving it nation-wide circulation.

Respectful petitions have been made to the officials of this eminent Negro institution by individuals, various organizations, the newspapers, and now Governor Broughton officially repudiates the claim that the Gaston episode constituted a lynching.

Rev. William R. Johnson, the Negro consultant of the State Board of Public Welfare, has been among the most outspoken in his condemnation of the error.

By general agreement, the Tuskegee statisticians have grievously blundered in the first instance by classifying this murder as a lynching and charging it against the good name of North Carolina, and is now accentuating that error by stubbornly refusing to heed the earnest protests and petitions in support of an official correction from that source.

These Tuskegee officials will not be required to live very long before seeing visible evidences of the folly of this policy.

This is an institution that stands high in the esteems of the white people of the South. It has earned and often received the eulogiums of the public, the pulpit and the press of this whole area. The work it is doing is of such a high and constructive order that it is held up for admonition, not only because of the prestige it gained from Booker T. Washington's administration of its affairs, but because of its continuingly effectual services, as one of the power houses of the South for an improved and enlightened order of life for the Negroes.

But the attitude now being taken in this case, the obvious mistake that was first made and now the more obvious arrogance of the executives of the institution in refusing to give decent attention to the waves of righteous protest being made from the good people of North Carolina, is going to lessen this public esteem and do great damage to the name of that institution in this commonwealth, and everywhere else that a fair minded public learns of the incident in all of its factful phases.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
July 19, 1941

WHEN IS A LYNCHING?

When the semi-annual report on lynchings was released by Tuskegee Institute recently, there was an immediate wave of protest from North Carolina.

North Carolina, for the first time in many years, was listed on the tally sheet of dishonor. But, insisted North Carolinians, the inclusion of that State on the list was unjustified and unfair.

The killing which had been classified as a lynching in a Tuskegee compilation was a spontaneous murder, spokesmen for the State insisted. Petitions have been addressed to Tuskegee from individuals, from institutions, from newspapers, from organizations, from the Rev. William R. Johnson, Negro consultant of the State Board of Public Welfare, and finally Gov. Broughton has officially repudiated the classification.

There has not been a more heartening demonstration of the South's opposition to lynching than the insistent, persistent, at times even angry, demands that North Carolina's name be removed from the list.

However, the heartening effect of the incident is dimmed by the ill-feeling that has been aroused in the Old North State, an ill-feeling that is directed now at Tuskegee Institute. The semi-annual release of lynching facts is a minor incident in the research and records work of Dr. Monroe N. Work who has compiled at Tuskegee the most significant body of data to be found related to the American Negro. The Institute considers itself merely as a factual reporter in this instance.

The current dispute involves the question of "What is a lynching?" An exact definition, upon which there would be universal agreement, is obviously impossible.

The Advertiser is not familiar with the exact details of the killing in question. It appears that a Negro was murdered by four white men as the outcome of a drunken brawl. North Carolina spokesmen insist that the crime was a spontaneous murder for which the guilty parties have been given long prison sentences.

Tuskegee Institute has set up this general definitation of what constitutes a lynching. First: the body must be found to satisfy the very common requirement that a body be produced in any murder prosecution. Second: the person must be killed by three or more persons supposedly acting in the interest of justice, mores, or tradition.

The Advertiser agrees in detail to that general deflintion of a lynching. But there is yet some question whether this particular case in North Carolina fits the definition. Tuskegee Institute says it does. Responsible North Carolina authorities say it does not.

Among the North Carolinians who have spoken there are many who are as sincerely opposed to lynching as any persons or institutions to be found anywhere, including The Advertiser and Tuskegee Institute.

Since there is widespread sentiment in North Carolina against that State being included on the list where lynchings have occurred, why not reopen the question. Certainly Tuskegee would not want to blacken the good name of a State without being certain that it is on absolutely sound grounds.

Let a committee be selected, there are persons in North Carolina of the integrity of the Frank Porter Graham type who would be fitted for such a task, to consider two things: (1) The current definition of lynching; (2) the crime in question. On the basis of a detailed examination of these facts, let the committee decide whether the crime should be classified as a lynching or as a murder.

Opposition to lynching is based upon a conviction that persons accused of crimes should be given fair and impartial trials. No less should be expected of a question involving the reputation of a State.

A committee under the leadership of Frank Porter Graham could be trusted implicitly to give a decision in which all parties could have utmost confidence.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
July 17, 1941

GRIEVOUS ERROR.

The authorities of Tuskegee Institute are making a mistake that is going to be enduringly damaging to the good name of that good institution by refusing to correct the mistake they made in classifying the murder of a Negro in Gaston county as a lynching and giving it nation-wide circulation.

Respectful petitions have been made to the officials of this eminent Negro institution by individuals, various organizations, the newspapers, and now Governor BROUGHTON officially repudiates the claim that the Gaston episode constituted a lynching.

Rev. WILLIAM R. JOHNSON, the Negro consultant of the State Board of Public Welfare, has been among the most outspoken in his condemnation of the error.

By general agreement, the Tuskegee statisticians have grievously blundered in the first instance by classifying this murder as a lynching and charging it against the good name of North Carolina, and is now accentuating that error by stubbornly refusing to heed the earnest protests and petitions in support of an official correction from that source.

These Tuskegee officials will not be required to live very long before seeing visible evidences of the folly of this policy.

This is an institution that stands high in the esteems of the white people of the South. It has earned and often received the eulogiums of the public, the pulpit and the press of this whole area. The work it is doing is of such a high and constructive order that it is held up for admonition, not only because of the prestige it gained from BOOKER T. WASHINGTON'S administration of its affairs, but because of its continuingly effectual services, as one of the power houses of the South for an improved and enlightened order of life for the Negroes.

But the attitude now being taken in this case, the obvious mistake that was first made and now the more obvious arrogance of the executives of the institution in refusing to give decent attention to the waves of righteous protest being made from the good people of North Carolina, is going to lessen this public esteem and do great damage to the name of that institution in this commonwealth, and everywhere else that a fair minded public learns of the incident in all of its factful phases.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 19, 1941

OUGHT TO BE REVIEWED

(Charlotte News)

If Congress had passed the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, introduced in 1934, Gaston county would today owe the Federal government $10,000.

That much is explicit in the bill which sought to define the crime of lynching and to assess a portion of the penalty for it against counties in which the crime occurred. And it explains a lot, for by the bill's definition, the murder of the Negro bridegroom by four white toughs in Gaston county last April was a lynching. See:

The phrase "mob or riotous assemblage," when used in this act, shall mean an assemblage composed of three or more persons acting in concert, without authority of law, for the purpose of depriving any person of his life, or doing him physical injury.

"Any county," the bill goes on to declare, "in which a person is put to death by a mob or riotous assemblage"—that is by three or more persons—"shall forfeit $10,000."

Otherwise than in its definition, however, the bill implicitly upholds the contention made by this newspaper and others, reiterated by Governor Broughton, that the elements of a lynching are not only the assemblage of several persons but the assemblage of those persons for the purpose of usurping the due processes of law.

If concerted violence by three or more persons is always to be called a lynching, then the St. Valentine's Day massacre in Chicago was a lynching, manhandling in strikes is lynching, fights between gashouse gangs are lynchings. This definition of lynching could even be stretched to cover the more extreme forms of hazing by school boys.

What happened in Gaston county, as has been made substantially clear, was not a lynching in the accepted sense of the word; it was wanton murder. No negligence or remissness of officers of the law were involved. Heavy punishment was dealt out to the four rampaging white youths for a crime which was committed in their own alcoholic anger rather than in the name of Southern womanhood or white supremacy or any other stock alibi for lynching.

Governor Broughton is entirely justified in protesting Tuskegee Institute's classification of this murder as a lynching. The good name of the State requires protest—and more, for once this miscalled lynching goes down in the statistics, no amount of explanation will expunge it.

What the governor should do, we suggest, is to ask of the president of the Institute, whose lynching records are generally accepted as authentic, that a board be appointed to review all the facts in the case and determine if a lynching it was, as Tuskegee maintains, or a murder, as North Carolina insists.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 16, 1941

DISCARD THEM ALL

We have wondered if President Patterson, of Tuskegee Institute, has given any thought to the loss in prestige his school will suffer and the lack of respect for any further figures and statistics that come from the institution if he continues to disregard the protests of the North Carolina press about the alleged lynching of Robert Melker of this county.

If it had been only The Gazette protesting to Dr. Patterson, we can well see why he would have been tempted to ignore the protest on the grounds that the home county newspaper is prejudiced, biased and anxious to keep the record of its county unspotted. But, the protest has been State-wide. Practically every one of the larger newspapers of the State, the morning dailies and many of the afternoon papers have written strong and forceful editorials whose logic was invincible. Governor Broughton has protested. The county commissioners of Gaston county have said that the charge was wrong. Even the murdered Negro's family have said that it was not a lynching in the popularly accepted term. The Birmingham Age-Herald, one of the biggest newspapers in the State of Alabama, has said that the killing of Melker was not a lynching. If President Patterson can ignore and refuse to reconsider, in the light of all this argument, he must be a different sort of man from the kind we like to think of as heading the school which Booker T. Washington founded. Along this line, another North Carolina newspaper, which has not spoken before, The Lexington Dispatch, Says:

"Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, declares that the murder of Robert Melker in Gaston county, which the department of record and research in the big Negro college charged as a lynching was 'similar to positively recorded lynchings in other states in past years.' Consequently, he is quoted as asserting there would be no change in its classification.

"The number, vigor and character of the protests made in North Carolina concerning this erroneous classification should have given Dr. Patterson pause. He has the reputation of a fine school in his keeping, a reputation that has carried with it the good will of Southern people for many years. He would be foolish indeed to let a bit of arrogant pride damage the standing of Tuskegee.

"The action of the college head in taking this arbitrary stand in the face of the protests of a leader of his race in North Carolina, of responsible newspapers that have stood for justice and fair treatment for Negroes, and of the board of county commissioners of Gaston county, who passed formal resolutions in the matter, must compromise the accuracy of any lynching statistics sent out from Tuskegee in the future. The majority listed as such have been accurately termed lynchings no doubt, but Dr. Patterson's statement raises a reasonable doubt as to whether the figures have not been padded in the past. It is a poor sort of appreciation on the part of the educator and his associates for the determined effort of North Carolina law enforcement officers for many years to wipe out the blight of the lyncher.

"It would be better for Tuskegee to discard this feature of its research work than to have all its figures questioned by the people of North Carolina in the future. And certainly it would be nothing but proper for the North Carolina press to discard them in the future."

Wadesboro, N. C., Intelligencer
July 10, 1941

Lynching Report Gets Gaston Leaders Angry

Tuskeegee Institute Is Alleged to Have Improperly Listed Killing of Negro.

Gastonia, July 3. — Gaston officials and civic leaders expressed keen resentment at the semi-annual report sent out today from Tuskeegee Institute in Alabama charging Gaston county with one of three lynchings catalogued by that institution during the last six months.

Negro leaders of the county were as much surprised as were the white leaders at the charge made against this county by the leading Ngro institution in the South. Over a long period of years, it is pointed out, the listing of lynchings by Tuskeegee has been accepted by the public as entirely reliable and at least semi-official.

The alleged lynchings in Gaston is thus chronicled in the Tuskeegee report:

"April 20, Gaston county, near Cherryville, N. C., Robert Melker, Negro, charged with altercation with man; shot to death in home by four white men."

Evidence at the trial at the April term of Gaston superior court, Judge Frank Armstring presiding, showed that Melker was shot and killed as the result of spontaneous argument with four white men, Graham and Haywood Dellinger, brothers, Robert Sellers and Fred Hudson, all af Cehrryville, except Sellers who lived in Cleveland county. Evidence was that the men were drunk at the time.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
July 12, 1941

Silly or Unnecessary

If the officials of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama are correct in listing the Gaston County murder as a lynching, then they are acting strangely nevertheless. Here, if it was a lynching, was a lynching in which every member of the mob was promptly arrested, promptly convicted and promptly sent to prison for a long term.

Nothing like that has ever happened before. There never was before such a clear demonstration of the ability of a Southern community to deal with dispatch and justice in handling a lynching. Never was a better argument provided against any necessity for any national dealing with lynching than the manner in which local authorities handled this case.

Of course, the truth is that however regarded this case has been handled in folly as a part of the lynching record. North Carolina white and Negro men, who are as opposed to lynching as any men of any race in Alabama or New York, regard the listing of this case as a lynching as an act which does not so much shame this State as it makes all lynching statistics suspect. Statistics about lynching which include such a case as this one reduce the propaganda power of lynching reports. But even if the North Carolinians are wrong, if this was a true lynching, its only effect in the propaganda against lynching would be to suggest that the necessity for indignation is disappearing and that people can forget about lynchings and leave the problem to the local police.

Unfortunately, *The News and Observer* does not believe that that time has arrived. There has been undoubted progress made by Southern courts and officers in standing against the mob. But the danger remains, the crime recurs. The ugliness of lynching needs to be held before the eyes of a people in order that the crime of lynching's decrease may at last become disappearance. This year the Tuskegee figures definitely fail to serve that greatly to be desired goal. Inclusion in them of this North Carolina case proves that the definition is being widened to include cases which outside the South would be commonly regarded as gang killings. That discrimination will not help hold the South to its sense of responsibility. Or this case proves that Southern justice is amply able to do its job without any crying of shame from anybody on the sidelines, North or South. What this year's lynching statistics say is that the statistics are silly or the statistics are unnecessary. Whichever is the case, the statisticians at Tuskegee have made a sad mistake.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
July 10, 1941

LYNCHING RECORD.

Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Three lynchings for the first six months of 1941 are recorded by Tuskegee Institute in a communication which appears in today's Voice of the People from President Patterson of the Institute, but vigorous demurrers already are being entered in North Carolina to one of them. Informed Tar Heels are protesting that the killing of a Negro in Gaston County April 13 by four white youths, following a rock battle, was not a lynching. The four white youths are now serving terms from 14 to 25 years.

There seems to be something in the argument of the North Carolinians. Admittedly there are borderline cases which under one definition will be termed a "lynching" and under another will be bracketed as a "murder." Taking everything into consideration, the killing under notice impresses us as more properly placed in the latter category. There was nothing remotely resembling a mob anywhere in the picture.

Last December the Commission on Interracial Relations, the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People held a joint conference at Tuskegee, which was attended by other Southern leaders, for the purpose of arriving at a definition of lynching which would be satisfactory to all. Apparently complete agreement was never reached, for the N. A. A. C. P., which usually has operated under a broader definition than the other two bodies, published a definition soon afterward in its annual report for 1940 which differed from that carried in the Southern Frontier, the organ of the two Southern interracial agencies.

The N. A. A. C. P. termed a lynching "an activity in which persons in defiance of law administer punishment by death to an individual for an alleged offense or to an individual with whom some offense has been associated." But the Commission on Interracial Cooperation says a lynching is the killing of a person "by a group acting under the pretext of service to justice, race or tradition."

The classification of the North Carolina killing as a lynching by Tuskegee indicates that something nearer the N. A. A. C. P. definition, rather than the Interracial Commission definition, was used in this particular instance. This seems a mistake, for the N. A. A. C. P. definition is too broad. Can't it be interpreted as placing in the lynching category any homicide in which two men kill another? Such a sweeping and all-inclusive use of the term impresses one as utterly unscientific. Moreover, how is one to avoid counting scores of gang killings in the North as lynchings, under its terms?

Actually, then, it would appear that only two genuine lynchings have occurred below the Potomac during the first six months of 1941. If the second half of the year can be kept clean of this stain, and Tuskegee can be persuaded not to count the Carolina killing, it will be the best year in the South's postbellum history. The best previous record was for 1939, when Tuskegee reported only three lynch victims. There were five in 1940.

Charlotte, N. C., News
July 12, 1941

It Was Murder

But Tuskegee's Patterson Insists It Was A Lynching

On our desk while this is being written are two pieces of printed matter. One is the annual report of President F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute. Fifty-three pages of pictures and type tell the heart-warming story of what this great Alabama Negro institution is doing for the social and economic betterment of the race.

Beside the report is a four-paragraph newspaper clipping:

"Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said today a lynching credited to Gaston County, North Carolina, in the first six months of 1941 was 'similar to positively recorded lynchings in other states in past years' and consequently there would be no change in the classification of three lynchings listed . . . by the Institute's department of records and research."

Last week THE NEWS presented positive and unrefuted testimony showing that the "lynching" in question was a clear case of murder. The perpetrators of the crime were tried, convicted, and are now serving prison terms of from 14 to 24 years.

William R. Johnson, Negro consultant of the North Carolina Board of Charities and Public Welfare, as well as many North Carolina newspaper, joined with us in earnestly requesting President Patterson to reconsider his decision. President Patterson has declined to do so.

In closing his annual report, President Patterson said: "There is everywhere the desire and determination to carry our work to new heights of achievement in spite of the seriousness of the times and the limitations which are imposed."

We can only conclude—and we say it with genuine regret—that President Patterson has in this instance contributed to those limitations.

Fayetteville, N. C., Observer
July 9, 1941

PHONEY LYNCHINGS.

The Tuskegee Institute, negro educational establishment, undoubtedly has rendered the Nation in general and the South in particular, constructive although unwelcome service, by listing the number of lynchings year by year and by giving them the utmost publicity.

White light of this publicity has served to discourage this particularly distressing form of law violation and has made the areas in which lynchings customarily took place more suitable locations for the residence of law-abiding persons.

However, Tuskegee shows signs of over-stepping the limits of reason in its persistent search for lynchings when it lists as such homicides which were nothing but plain murders.

In this connection it is well that the person who called Tuskegee's hand in the matter of a phoney lynching attributed to North Carolina was himself a negro.

Lynchings have had a distinctly racial odor in the past. Courageous determination of the white taxpayers of the South to give the negro residents equal educational opportunities have pushed back the wall of ignorance which led to a majority of the crimes which incited white persons of inferior educations to participate in lynchings.

Efforts to create the impression that lynchings are not waning as rapidly as they actually are does not do credit to the Tuskegee Institute and evidences a will to sabotage strides in good-will and racial co-operation which have contributed so largely to reduction of crime and inter-racial friction.

Cherryville, N. C., Eagle
July 10, 1941

No Lynchings In State

(Hickory Record)

It is unfortunate that Tuskegee Institute, in reporting three lynchings of Negroes during the first six months of this year, has included the murder of a Gaston county colored farmer near Cherryville on April 13, as a "lynching."

The farmer in qquestion was shot and killed at his home following a rock fight which reesulted in an argument with four white boys. Within ten days after the slaying all four of the boys were sentenced to prison terms ranging from fourteen to twenty-five years—and are now serving their sentences.

The testimony at the trial showed that one of the white boys was wounded when the mother of the Negro who was later murdered, broke up the rock fight by firing a shotgun. It was also alleged the colored man had a gun which he had no opportunity to use when the white boys returned to his farm after having themselves secured two shotguns.

The Record does not condone lynching, and furthermore we are not attempting to justify the killing of the Negro involved is the controversy in question. Nevertheless, we hold that by no stretch of the meaning of the term is President Patterson of Tuskegee justified in going so far afield to charge North Carolina with a lynching as a consequence of such a murder.

The people of this State are proud of the progress that has been made in the suppression of lynchings—and the leaders of the Negro race will make a grave mistake if they insist on making an issue of the Cherryville slaying.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 11, 1941

Tuskegee Turns Deaf Ear To Plea Of Negro Leaders

President Patterson Says Institute Will Not Change Its Reports Classifying Melker Murder Here As Lynching.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 11.—(AP)—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said today a lynching credited to Gaston County, North Carolina, in the first six months of 1941 was "similar to positively recorded lynchings in other states in past years" and consequently there would be no change in the classification of three lynchings listed for the first half of the year by the institute's department of records and research.

His statement followed criticism in North Carolina newspapers and by William R. Johnson, Negro consultant of the North Carolina board of charities and public welfare.

The newspapers and Johnson insisted that the crime was "murder," that it grew out of an argument on the scene between white men and a Negro, and that the accused four white men now were serving prison terms ranging from 14 to 25 years.

Johnson declared the Tuskegee statement "should be withdrawn or restated to record two lynchings (in Georgia and Florida) with the name of North Carolina omitted."

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 14, 1941

A SAD MISTAKE

(News and Observer)

If the officials of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama are correct in listing the Gaston county murder as a lynching, then they are acting strangely nevertheless. Here, if it was a lynching, was a lynching in which every member of the mob was promptly arrested, promptly convicted and promptly sent to prison for a long term.

Nothing like that has ever happened before. There never was before such a clear demonstration of the ability of a Southern community to deal with dispatch and justice in handling a lynching. Never was a better argument provided against any necessity for any national dealing with lynching than the manner in which local authorities handled this case.

Of course, the truth is that however regarded this case has been handled in folly as a part of the lynching record North Carolina white and Negro men, who are as opposed to lynching as any men of any race in Alabama or New York, regard the listing of this case as a lynching as an act which does not so much shame this State as it makes all lynching statistics suspect. Statistics about lynching which include such a case as this one reduce the propaganda power of lynching reports. But even if the North Carolinians are wrong, if this was a true lynching, its only effect in the propaganda against lynching would be to suggest that the necessity for indignation is disappearing and that people can forget about lynchings and leave the problem to the local police.

Unfortunately, The News and Observer does not believe that that time has arrived. There has been undoubted progress made by Southern courts and officers in standing against the mob. But the danger remains, the crime recurs. The ugliness of lynching needs to be held before the eyes of a people in order that the crime of lynching's decrease may at last become disappearance. This year the Tuskegee figures definitely fail to serve that greatly to be desired goal. Inclusion in them of this North Carolina case proves that the definition is being widened to include cases which outside the South would be commonly regarded as gang killings. That discrimination will not help hold the South to its sense of responsibility. Or this case proves that Southern justice is amply able to do its job without any crying of shame from anybody on the sidelines, North or South. What this year's lynching statistics say is that the statistics are silly or the statistics are unnecessary. Whichever is the case, the statisticians at Tuskegee have made a sad mistake.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 24, 1941

NEGRO EDITOR CONDEMNS LYNCHING REPORT

Here is what a leading Negro weekly newspaper, The Carolina Tribune, published at Raleigh, has to say about the report put out by Tuskegee Institute classifying the murder of Robert Melker as a lynching. The editorial appeared in the issue of that paper of Saturday, July 19th:

Many Negroes will doubtless take the attitude that W. Randolph Johnson's criticism of the blunder made by the research department of Tuskegee Institute, classifying as a lynching the murder of a Gaston county Negro as an attempt to win the approval of the white people of North Carolina. We are inclined to class as a lynching any killing of a Negro by more than one person. Such an attitude keeps the public mind of the Negro constantly inflamed and is very damaging to the creation of proper attitudes towards the establishment of law and order.

In pointing out the error made by Tuskegee Institute, Mr. Johnson did a big thing for the State of North Carolina, and merits the commendation of both races for his fair-minded courage in taking the stand alone to condemn what he knew to be an insult to justice in any state. The News and Observer carried a candid editorial on Mr. Johnson's correction of the error, and this week Governor Broughton came out with statements that termed the statistical error of Tuskegee as "unjust and unfair to the State."

Tuskegee would do well to issue a statement correcting the error, lest it commit another serious error by remaining silent. We should take pride in the fact that the slayers of the man in question are serving time, however light their sentences might be.

The State tried to render justice, and therefore should be exonerated of the shameful charge of having had a lynching.

As the facts stand in North Carolina, there was no lynching. We all are proud of that fact. It shows progress in the establishment of justice.

If President Patterson of Tuskegee and the members of his research department will not listen to the arguments of white people and white newspapers against this unjust stigma on the good name of North Carolina, certainly it seems to us they would listen to the facts and arguments as put up by this and other Negro newspapers.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 26, 1941

VERY SIGNIFICANT

The Gazette regards as extremely significant the action of the Gaston County Unit of the North Carolina Interracial Commission in entering protest against the classification by Tuskegee Institute of the murder of Robert Melker as a lynching.

Fact that this organization, composed of both white and Negro leaders of the county, went on record as requesting that the State and National Interracial Commissions undertake an investigation of this crime is proof sufficient to us that the Negroes themselves have no doubt in their minds as to what the result of such an investigation would be.

Dr. Henry C. McDowell, a wise and statesmanlike leader of his race in the South, told the executive committee of the Gaston unit, when this matter was under discussion this week, that the fact that Gaston county and North Carolina has manifested such a sensitive spirit in resenting this classification of a murder as a lynching is evidence of the splendid relationship between the races which has grown up in this State. There are in the South, perhaps—at least there have certainly been in the past—some communities that would not have lifted an eyebrow to contest such a stigma. We hope there are no longer such communities. That such a sensitive spirit does exist here in North Carolina is proof that much progress has been made in the development of closer and better relationships between the white and Negro citizenship.

Danville, Va., Register
July 10, 1941

SHOULD BE CORRECTED

(Raleigh News and Observer)

The report of the Tuskegee Institute recording the murder of a Negro in Gaston County last April as a lynching has been repudiated by William R. Johnson, Negro consultant of the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare.

This repudiation cannot be dismissed on the ground that it reflects State pride. It is true that the author is both a resident of North Carolina and a State employe. But neither he nor the Negroes of this State for whom he speaks have ever been hesitant in both admitting and denouncing any injustice to members of their race.

But the most important feature of this repudiation of the Tuskegee report is that it is based upon undisputable facts.

Not only did the killing in Gaston County lack all of the elements of a lynching, those who did the killing have been punished and punished severely.

This kind of silliness in statistics defeats the very aims of those who wish to eradicate the horrible crime of lynching. If every murder of a Negro is to be termed a lynching for no earthly reason except that it was committed by a white man, the whole point of the warfare upon lynching is lost. Once the impression is gained that statistics relating to lynchings are unreliable such statistics lose all value. Such an impression is inescapable on the part of those who know the facts in connection with the Gaston County killing. Moreover, inclusion of this murder in the list of lynchings places Tuskegee Institute in the unenviable position of holding up to shame the State of North Carolina for an occurrence for which the State, because of the prompt and effective action of its courts, deserves the praise rather than the blame of all friends of the Negro race and all foes of lynching.

Both for the sake of its own reputation for accuracy and for the sake of the cause which is espouses, Tuskegee Institute should correct promptly its list of lynchings for the first six months of 1941.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 5, 1941

DEFAMATION OF STATE'S GOOD NAME

(Greensboro News)

North Carolinians, proud of the non-lynching record which their state has made for the last few years, were no less shocked than surprised to note that lynching statistics as compiled by Tuskegee institute and as currently announced for the first six months of the present calendar year list one of the three lynchings charged against he whole country as having occurred in North Carolina.

The Daily News could recall nothing that even so much as resembled a lynching in Tarheelia during the prescribed period. Investigation, however, showed that the instance to which the Tuskegee report referred occurred in Gaston county last April. The Raleigh News and Observer, from the data available in the capital, presents the following summary of what transpired, not only in the death itself but in the official follow-through:

The last case occurred in North Carolina on Sunday, April 13, when Robert Melker, a 23-year-old Gaston county Negro farmer, was shot and killed at his home near Cherryville, Gaston county, following a rock fight which grew out of an argument with four white boys, Graham and Haywood Dellinger, Robert Sellers and Fred Hudson. Within ten days after the shooting all four of the white boys were sentenced to prison terms ranging from 14 to 25 years, which they are now serving.

The evidence at the trial at Gastonia before Judge Frank Armstrong showed that Sellers was wounded when the mother of the Negro broke up the rock fight by firing a shotgun. It was also alleged that the Negro man had a gun, which he had no opportunity to use, when the white boys returned to his farm, after leaving to secure two shotguns. The killing of Melker grew entirely out of incidents of that afternoon and no other persons were concerned in any way.

Heretofore prone to accept the Tuskegee figures without serious question, The Daily News is nevertheless moved to protest this defamation against North Carolina's good name, soiled as it has been by lynchings in other years and social and economic injustices which still obtain. Facts surrounding the case speak for themselves. There was an altercation out of which murder, or manslaughter, grew. The spirit of mobbery, of lynching, is altogether missing. To clinch this interpretation or point of view there is the crowning point that the four white defendants were speedily apprehended and are now doing penance in duress vile. Who ever heard of a mobster, in the accepted sense of the word, who was recognized by local officers, much less brought to taw and punished?

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 8, 1941

NO LYNCHINGS IN STATE

(Hickory Record)

It is unfortunate that Tuskegee Institute, in reporting three lynchings of Negroes during the first six months of this year, has included the murder of a Gaston county colored farmer near Cherryville on April 13, as a "lynching."

The farmer in question was shot and killed at his home following a rock fight which resulted in an argument with four white boys. Within ten days after the slaying all four of the boys were sentenced to prison terms ranging from fourteen to twenty-five years—and are now serving their sentences.

The testimony at the trial showed that one of the white boys was wounded when the mother of the Negro who was later murdered, broke up the rock fight by firing a shotgun. It was also alleged the colored man had a gun which he had no opportunity to use when the white boys returned to his farm after having themselves secured two shotguns.

The Record does not condone lynching, and furthermore we are not attempting to justify the killing of the Negro involved is the controversy in question. Nevertheless, we hold that by no stretch of the meaning of the term is President Patterson of Tuskegee justified in going so far afield to charge North Carolina with a lynching as a consequence of such a murder.

The people of this State are proud of the progress that has been made in the suppression of lynchings—and the leaders of the Negro race will make a grave mistake if they insist on making an issue of the Cherryville slaying.

Brevard, N. C., Transylvania Times
July 10, 1941

SAD NEWS SHORT

THE sad news of Negro lynchings in the South for the first six months of 1941 is short—with only three lynchings being reported in the entire Southern area. One of these may not even be classed as a lynching, since the Negro was shot and killed as a direct result of an altercation with three or four white men and was not an action of a mob representing a community. This occurred in Gaston county.

But back to the news about the lynchings. We say the news is sad but short. And truly it is sad. Because there is no reason under the sun why a person, regardless of his color, should not be allowed a fair and just trial before a group of selected jurors and an honest judge. Granted that there are certain crimes which are basely criminal and could only be the act of a madman, it is the custom here in America to regard a suspect as innocent until it is proved, in the courts of the land, that he is guilty. It is not, and may it never be, the responsibility of a single group of persons, acting in the spirit of traditional mob psychology that says "kill" and forget the possibility that he may be innocent, to pass judgment on an arrested suspect.

There has been much done within these past few years to thwart the numerous lynchings in the gentile and hospitable Southland. The arm of the law has reached out in long grasps and curbed the efforts of would-be mobsters, and so effective has that arm of the law become that during these first six months of the current year only two bona fide lynchings have taken place. Due credit should go to the citizenry, too, for this low lynching record is partly a result of education as to the principles of democracy and true brotherhood among the citizens of the South.

Our wish for the report of the last six months of 1941—may there be no report of lynchings in the South.

Gastonia N C Gazette
July 12, 1941

If the Tuskegee authorities do not retract their incorrect statement about the alleged lynching in Gaston county, that institution, which has long enjoyed renown and favored prestige all over the country, because of the magnificent work it is doing for the colored people, will be discredited. The Gazette has challenged the institution to send a committee here to investigate the alleged lynching, to interview members of the Negro's family, the white folks who employed a lawyer to help prosecute his murderers, the county and state authorities, and anyone else. If Tuskegee fails to accept that dare, their case falls down completely and the institution founded by Booker T. Washington will be black-listed in North Carolina.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 5, 1941

We hope the research authorities of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama will know, by the time they receive the bombardment of clippings and conclusive evidence from North Carolina newspapers that there was no lynching in Gaston county Easter Sunday. The Negro, Robert Melker, was shot by one of four drunken youths, all of whom are paying the penalty in long penitentiary sentences. If the famous Negro institution wishes to retain its prestige for truth and reliability, it will announce a retraction of the charges made that this Negro was lynched in North Carolina. Elsewhere on this page will be found more comment from North Carolina newspapers with more to follow in a day or two.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 4, 1941

Protest Action Tuskegee Institution

Indications today were that the Tuskegee Institute, famed Negro school at Tuskegee, Alabama, will be besieged with a bombardment of protests over its action yesterday in charging Gaston county with a lynching in the death of Robert Melker, 23-year-old Negro farmer fatally shot at his home near Cherryville last Easter Sunday, April 13.

Executive Secretary Brice T. Dickson of Gastonia Chamber of Commerce was busy yesterday drafting an official protest to the Tuskegee Institution. Secretary Dickson had at his disposal complete files of the Gazette on the case, showing that Melker was killed as the result of a spontaneous argument with four white men who were arrested within 24 hours after the shooting and tried and sentenced for it within 10 days after it happened. All are serving long penitentiary terms now.

CITES DICTIONARY

Secretary Dickson also pointed out yesterday, in gathering material for his protest, that the definition of a lynching given by the best legal dictionaries and by the latest Webster's Unabridged dictionary, generally regarded as the ultimate authority, construes lynching as an act of violence on the part of a mob or group of men against a defendant charged with a crime, in which the victim's life is taken without due process of law.

This does not in any way fit the case of Melker, who was not charged with any crime and was killed as the result of a spontaneous argument with the four white men now serving long prison terms for his death—Haywood and Graham Dellinger and Fred Hudson, all of Cherryville, and Robert Sellers of Cleveland county.

Dr. T. H. McDill, pastor of the First A. R. P. church and chairman of the Gaston county unit of the North Carolina Inter-racial Council, which has a long record of effective service in promoting harmonious race relationship in Gaston county, said today he shares Secretary Dickson's opinion that Gaston county has been done a grave injustice by the Alabama institution in its action in classing the Melker death as a lynching. Dr. McDill indicated he will present the matter to the Gaston county inter-racial unit at its next meeting with the suggestion that the Gaston group go on record as condemning the action of the Alabama institution and forward an official draft of its protest to the officials of the institute at Tuskegee.

ROTARY PROTESTS

Yesterday the membership of Gastonia Rotary Club ordered appointment of a committee to draft a resolution of condemnation and protest to be presented to the club at its next week's meeting for passage.

Various North Carolina newspapers, including The Raleigh News and Observer, The Greensboro Daily News and others have editorially condemned the action of the Alabama institution as one which may reflect on its accuracy.

In response to a query telegraphed to officials of the institution yesterday by The Gazette, asking upon what facts the institution based its assertion, which was given nationwide publicity in Associated Press dispatches yesterday, that the Melker case was a lynching, The Gazette was informed in a wire received today from Ralph N. Davis, director of the institution's department of records and research that: "It has been our custom for more than 30 years to class as lynchings those instances where an individual was unlawfully put to death by three or more persons."

The Melker case was one of three deaths of Negroes in the South during the first six months of 1941 classed by the Alabama institution as a lynching yesterday in publication of its report of lynchings in the United States in the first half of this year.

NOT A LYNCHING

Local sources pointed out today that under the policy used by the Tuskegee institution in classing the Melker death as a lynching, numerous cases which have no resemblance whatsoever to a lynching, as generally understood by the public and defined by the best legal and classical dictionaries, might be classed as lynchings to the detriment of the reputation of the localities where such instances occur.

It was pointed out the Tuskegee report has given Gaston county nationwide unfavorable publicity, reflecting in the minds of the public on the law enforcement agencies and courts of Gaston county, a highly unjust reflection since the officers and courts acted with almost record promptness in rounding up the killers and in trying them and putting them in prison.

Coroner C. C. Wallace said today he informed the Tuskegee Institute some time ago, in reply to a query as to whether Gaston county had any lynchings in the first six months of 1941, that the county had not had any lynchings. Coroner Wallace said today he also plans to draft a letter of protest to be forwarded to Tuskegee immediately.

Henderson, N. C. Dispatch
July 4, 1941

Our Good Name

Tuskegee Institute's summary of lynchings does North Carolina an injustice and damages its good name in the report for the 1941 half year, just issued, in that one death from mob violence is ascribed to this State. We have always laid store by the Tuskegee figures and are not abandoning them now because of disagreement as to an incident in North Carolina, but if this is a fair sample of the accuracy of the counting generally it must be admitted there are occasional stretchings that give the south more lynchings than it should be credited with.

The incident used in the Tuskegee reports as a case of lynching in this State was not so listed or even hinted as such at the time. Certainly it was not so regarded by Gaston county people, in whose section it occurred. Borrowing from the Greensboro Daily News, an item citing the circumstances is quoted as follows:

The last case occured in North Carolina on Sunday, April 13, when Robert Melker, a 23-year-old Gaston county Negro farmer, was shot and killed at his home near Cherryville, Gaston county, following a rock fight which grew out of an argument with four white boys, Graham and Haywood Dellinger, Robert Sellers and Fred Hudson. Within ten days after the shooting all four of the white boys were sentenced to prison terms ranging from 14 to 25 years, which they are now serving.

The evidence at the trial at Gastonia before Judge Frank Armstrong showed that Sellers was wounded when the mother of the Negro broke up the rock fight by firing a shotgun. It was also alleged that the Negro man had a gun, which he had no opportunity to use, when the white boys returned to his farm, after leaving to secure two shotguns. The killing of Melker grew entirely out of incidents of that afternoon and no other persons were concerned in any way.

How these facts could be distorted into a lynching would be a strange sort of reasoning. It looks more like a plain case of murder, albeit the line between murder and lynching is sometimes thin, which may account for Tuskegee's error this time.

North Carolina is quite proud of its record in crushing mob violence within its borders, but not so proud as to attempt to keep that record clear by avoiding facts when mob violence actually comes into play.

So far as we can recall, the last lynching in the State was that which occurred just across the Vance county line in Franklin a few years ago, which was almost as much a scar on our own name as upon our neighbor county, since only a fortunate circumstance decreed the site a little to the east of the imaginary dividing line. According to reports at the time, which never were substantiated nor seriously sought to be, Vance county men were participants in the spree.

That incident was some years ago, and there never has been a lynching in the State since, so far as we can recall. Nor do we believe a fair and reasonable appraisal of the facts could denominate the Gaston county affair as mob violence of the type commonly called a lynching.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
July 15, 1941

GOVERNOR RAPS LYNCH REPORT

Broughton Takes Issue With Tuskegee Institute In Listing Gaston Homicide.

RALEIGH, July 14.—(AP)—Governor Broughton, back at his desk after a two-week vacation, in response to questions today, took issue with a recent report of the Tuskegee institute which listed the homicide of a Negro in Gaston county as a lynching; said he intended to issue a formal statement calling on North Carolinians to conserve gasoline; and said he had signed formal papers giving the State Department of Labor the power to enforce the Federal wage-hour law.

The Tuskegee institute's report asserted that Robert Milker, 23, was lynched last April 13 after a rock fight with four white youths.

Broughton said that the Negro was slain, but certainly not lynched, and pointed out that the four white youths were sentenced to long prison terms.

"I think the classification of the case as a lynching was unjust and out of keeping with what I understand a lynching to be," he added. "A lynching is the action of a mob which seeks to replace the due course of justice by taking a person from the hands of the law, or by anticipating the law by taking a person before he is duly arrested."

"UNFAIR TO STATE."

North Carolina, he said, never before has complained about the classification of a lynching by the institute. The present classification, however, he said, is "unfair to the state and brings into question the authentic basis of the institute's reports, which heretofore have been considered entirely reliable."

Broughton said he had received a letter from Secretary of the Interior Ickes asking him to urge North Carolinians to co-operate in reducing the amount of gasoline used in the state.

"By voluntary response to the appeal, the more drastic steps of regulation and rationing may be avoided," he said.

Broughton's signature to an agreement making the State Labor department responsible for enforcement of the wage-hour law makes North Carolina the first state to assume this responsibility.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
July 26, 1941

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED PROTESTING 'LYNCHING'

GASTONIA, July 25—At a special meeting or the executive committee of the Gaston County unit of the North Carolina Interracial commission Thursday afternoon, resolutions were adopted unanimously protesting against the classification of the recent murder of Robert Melker, Negro of Gaston county, by Tuskegee Institute as a lynching and challenging the research department of that institution, through the state and national interracial commissions to send investigators here to discover the facts regarding this crime.

Members of this committee, which is composed equally of white and colored, are Rev. Dr. T. M. McDill, Brice T. Dickson, J. W. Atkins, Dr. Henry C. McDowell, Prof. T. Jeffers and Mrs. Maude M. Jeffers.

Dr. McDill, president of the Gaston unit, presided at the committee meeting.

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EDITORIALS

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
July 13, 1941

Dr. F. D. Patterson, President,
Tuskegee Institute,
Tuskegee, Alabama.

Dear Dr. Patterson:

Having just read a report from Tuskegee quoting you as having said a change in classification of the Gaston county murder which your institution listed as a lynching did not seem justified, I do not hesitate to say that, if the original classification stands, informed and intelligent people in this section of the country hereafter will have less respect for the Tuskegee reports on lynchings than they have had for many years past.

I doubt that many of them, if any, had been informed that the criteria used to define lynchings had been changed last year. Even so, the Gaston county murder, heinous as it was, does not become a lynching under the new criteria: "1. Existence of a dead body; 2. Person or persons meeting death illegally at the hands of a group of three or more individuals; 3. Said group acting under pretext of service to justice, race or tradition".

In the Gaston case, the victim was shot and killed by one man following an interim of hours after he and a group of four men had engaged in an exchange of rock throwing. He was not killed by a group. But, more important, there was no evidence that the group was acting under a pretext of service to justice, race or tradition. The group was not prompted by any crime committed, nor had the victim been accused or suspected of crime.

It was a case of murder in aggravated form, for which the group of four were promptly arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced to long terms in prison. It was no more proper to class it as a lynching than to class as a lynching the slaying of a person in a northern city as the result of a conspiracy by a group of gangsters. The classification is unfair to Gaston county, North Carolina and the South.

GENERAL MECKLENBURG.

Cherryville, N. C., Eagle
July 10, 1941

LAST LYNCHING AND ONLY ONE OCCURRED IN APRIL 1884 McCULLY NEGRO WAS HANGED

Lynching Took Place on What Is Known as Lower Dallas Road; Negro Had Killed Mr. Thomas Wilson, Of South Point Township.

A check of records today, prompted by the fact that Tuskegee Institute has erroneously reported the shooting of Robert Melker, 23-year-old Cherryville Negro last Easter Sunday, April 13, as a lynching, revealed that the last lynching in Gaston county—and the only lynching the county ever had, so far as any available records show—occurred more than 57 years ago on April 1, 1884.

This only lynching in the county's history was reported in The Gazette of April 4, 1884, as follows:

"We are necessarily forced to chronicle an event this week the like of which has never before occurred in Gaston county and we trust will never happen again.

MEN DISGUISED

"On last Monday night about midnight a body of disguised men entered the Town of Dallas and forcibly took from the jain the Negro, McCully, who it is remembered, about two weeks ago took the life of Mr. Thomas Wilson, of South Point township. Carrying McCully about two miles out of town and tying a rope around his neck, they hanged him to the limb of a large white oak where he was found early Tuesday morning still swinging from the limb.

"It seems that Mr. Rhyne, the jailer, was takes completely by surprise. A number of men went to his door and, having aroused him wrom his slumbers, told him they had a prisoner for him, and not suspecting otherwise, he opened his door and asked them into his house. Some of them quickly took advantage of it as it placed them in a position in which they could then more easily accomplish their designs.

HAD PRISONER

"They then informed him that they did not bring him a prisoner but that they came for one, and about the same time they placed Mr. Rhyne under arrest and kept him under surveillance till they accomplished their purpose. In some way they got possession of the keys and soon reached the cell of McCully whom they seized and, forcibly carrying away, hanged within a few feet of Holland's bridge on Long Creek.

As an honest journalist and as a citizen who believes in upholding and bowing submissively to the laws of the land, we are compelled to say that we are mortified at the transaction. It will be a blot upon the heretofore good name of Gaston county. Under the circumstances we consider that such a proceeding is a stab at the liberty we all so much pretend to reverence. If justice had not heretofore been meted to violators of the law, then possibly there might sometimes be an excuse for the people's taking the law into their own hands and summarily punishing in extreme cases. But we think that offenders do not often go unpunished in this county and consequently, in our humble opinion, a great blunder was committed. It was itself, we conceive, an unnecessary violation of the laws of the land."

NO ARRESTS

So far as the records show no arrests were made in this case and the lynchers were never apprehended or punished. What efforts were made to apprehend the members of the mob is not stated, but in the light of conditions as they existed in the South half a century ago, it is easy to assume that such efforts were, at the best perfunctory.

Gaston county was established in 1846, ninety-five years ago and so far as any records are available the lynching of McCully in 1884, is the only instance of its kind in the entire history of Gaston.

Asheville, N. C., Citizen
July 13, 1941

WHAT IS A LYNCHING?

President Patterson of the Tuskegee Institute still insists that the slaying of a negro by four white men in Gaston County last April was a "lynching" and that it will be so listed in the records of that institution. He brushes aside the arguments of North Carolina newspapers and negro leaders that the incident, deplorable as it was, was nothing more than an aggravated murder for which the guilty persons are now serving long prison sentences.

The Gaston County crime had none of the indispensable characteristics of a bona fide "lynching". It did not square with any of the definitions of a "lynching" to be found in the dictionaries. There was no mob. There was no attempt on the part of a group of citizens to assume the functions of the courts and to administer lawless justice. The facts of the case are incontestable. Four white men and a negro became involved in a rock fight. The mother of the negro ended the brawl temporarily by firing a shotgun and wounding one of the white aggressors. The white men left the scene, obtained two shotguns and returned to the negro's farm to renew the fight. The murder resulted. The murderers were promptly arrested, vigorously prosecuted and convicted. They are now serving long sentences.

When this murder was committed, no newspaper or responsible person in North Carolina classified it as a "lynching". It was not a case of trying to minimize the crime. It did not occur to any one that any reputable organization or institution would seek to brand the murder as a "lynching." The newspapers and the officials of the state were naturally shocked when Tuskegee Institute listed it as a "lynching". They are shocked again to learn now that this institution has decided to persevere in its error.

If this murder was a "lynching", then we must alter our long-standing conception of the crime. If this definition is to stand, then scores of unrecorded "lynchings" happen in the United States each year. Furthermore, many are committed annually in those states which lie without the borders of the South.

North Carolina has striven hard to avoid lynchings. There is no state in the South which has a better record for the past few years. It is regrettable that this record should be marred now by the capricious action of the Tuskegee Institute in finding a "lynching" where none was actually committed. It is all the more regrettable because such action will bring into question the accuracy of the figures which the Tuskegee Institute assembles and which have previously been accepted as authoritative.

[illegible], N. C. Dispatch
July 14, 1941

Discredited

Refusal of Tuskegee Institute's President F. D. Patterson to omit from his list of lynchings in the first half of 1941 the slaying of a Negro in Gaston county will add no prestige to records kept by his institution, by common consent, and usually relied upon for statistics on mob violence.

Vigorous protests against inclusion of the Gaston killing as a lynching that have been made by newspapers in the State and the Negro agent in the State welfare department mean exactly nothing to Dr. Patterson. With him "what is written is written" and apparently is as unchangeable as the laws of the Medes and Persians.

If this is a fair sample of what Tuskegee calls a lynching and of incidents included in its records, there is no telling how many or how few cases of mob slayings there have been in the South or elsewhere during the years since the Negro college has been compiling statistics. Under a system that would classify the Gaston murder as a lynching, it

would be possible to make the number large or small, as desired, and to produce figures to prove a case backward or forward.

North Carolina is rightly jealous of its good name. In recent years there has grown up in this State a keen resentment against violence of this type, so much so that there has not been an autcal lynching in a good many years, and over a much longer period the number has been very low. Naturally there is no disposition to accept the accusation brought by the Tuskegee boys, and the very fact of their own interpretation does not establish the facts in the manner they would have them.

In the minds of many people, Tuskegee records in the future will be just another compilation to be announced for reading and for acceptance or rejection, in contrast to the general acceptability with which they have been received hitherto. Confidence as to their accuracy will largely be dissipated, at least in this State where facts relating to the Gaston affair are pretty well established.

High Point, N. C. Enterprise
July 10, 1941

WHEN AND WHAT IS A LYNCHING?

The Raleigh News and Observer took note of the inclusion of North Carolina among the States listed by the Tuskegee Institute as having had a "lynching" this year, and denounced the classification. What happened was the murder of a negro in Gaston county by white men, an incident not unlike hundreds of killings all over the country. To classify that as a lynching is to throw the whole statistical report in disrepute, the Raleigh editor believes.

The Negro consultant for the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare, issued a statement, taking the same position the paper assumed. Now comes a further editorial reference in the News and Observer to the matter, and we quote:

The report of the Tuskegee Institute recording the murder of a Negro in Gaston County last April as a lynching has been repudiated by William R. Johnson, Negro consultant of the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare.

This repudiation cannot be dismissed on the ground that it reflects State pride. It is true that the author is both a resident of North Carolina and a State employe. But neither he nor the Negroes of this State for whom he speaks have ever been hesitant in both admitting and denouncing any injustice to members of their race.

But the most important feature of this repudiation of the Tuskee report is that it is based upon undisputable facts.

Not only did the killing in Gaston County lack all of the elements of a lynching, those who did the killing have been punished and punished severely.

This kind of silliness in statistics defeats the very aims of those who wish to eradicate the horrible crime of lynching. If every murder of a Negro is to be termed a lynching for no earthly reason except that it was committed by a white man, the whole point of the warfare upon lynching is lost. Once the impression is gained that statistics relating to lynchings are unreliable such statistics lose all value. Such an impression is inescapable on the part of those who know the facts in connection with the Gaston County killing. Moreover, inclusion of this murder in the list of lynchings places Tuskegee Institute in the unenviable position of holding up to shame the State of North Carolina for an occurrence for which the State, because of the prompt and effective action of its courts, deserves the praise rather than the blame of all friends of the Negro race and all foes of lynching.

Both for the sake of its own reputation for accuracy and for the sake of the cause which it espouses, Tuskegee Insttiute should correct promptly its list of lynchings for the first six months of 1941.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 11, 1941

TUSKEGEE MAKES TERRIBLE MISTAKE

According to an Associated Press story sent out from Tuskegee, Ala., Thursday afternoon and appearing elsewhere in today's issue of The Gazette, Tuskegee Institute, famous Negro school, has turned a deaf ear to appeals from both white and Negro leaders, official and civic bodies and newspapers in this State that it withdraw its classification of the murder of Robert Melker in this county in April of this year as a lynching.

Investigation by this newspaper reveals the fact that Tuskegee made both its original classification and its final decision entirely on second hand information. Despite the fact that the charging to any community of such a heinous crime as a lynching is one of the worst imaginable indictments, the institution has sent no investigator to Gaston county and did not even ask for information from the leaders of the Negro race in the county. To lodge such an indictment against a community without a fair and impartial investigation is to do an injustice that can hardly be wiped out even with strenuous effort.

The Gazette challenges President Patterson and his research department to send an investigator here to interview white and Negro leaders, including the family of the murdered Negro, and to look into the court records. If Tuskegee refuses to do this it will stigmatize itself as an organization blinded by prejudice and the result will be the discrediting forever hereafter of a college which, established by that great Negro leader, Booker T. Washington, has builded a reputation worldwide in its extent.

If there is anything the public despises, it is an attitude of blind prejudice and consequent narrow action on the part of any individual or institution, especially when the good name of a whole community is involved. Over a period of 30 years or more Tuskegee Institute has, by its accomplishments and record for fairness, established itself in the hearts of all the people of the United States.

Unless, however, it can turn about face, acknowledge its error in this matter and do its utmost to rectify a monstrous injustice, it will find its prestige and its reputation adversely affected to a great extent.

Speaking for itself—and we believe for every citizen both white and colored in Gaston county—The Gazette goes on record here and now that it is determined to give nationwide publicity to this outrageous slander of a community of 100,000 good people. We propose to see that the newspapers of the nation, practically all of which printed the semi-annual reports of Tuskegee on lynchings, are given the facts in this case.

We do not doubt that, as a result, future reports by this institution will be omitted from many newspapers and that many others will view such reports with a large question mark.

President Patterson and his institute have made a grave mistake. An old adage tells us that wise men change their minds, fools never. Certainly Tuskegee does not want to be placed before the American people in this latter category.

Gastonia N. C. Gazette
July 11, 1941

County Protests Tuskegee Report On Melker Affair

Full Text of Resolutions Adopted By County Commissioners In Regard to Alleged Lynching of Robert Melker.

Below is given the full text of the resolutions adopted by the board of county commissioners of Gaston county at its regular July meeting this week, protesting against the action of Tuskegee Institute in classifying the murder of Robert Melker, Negro of Cherryville township, as a lynching.

A copy of these resolutions was made a part of the permanent official records of the county and a copy sent to President F. D. Patterson of the institute at Tuskegee, Ala.

Elsewhere in this issue of The Gazette will be found a story sent out by the Associated Press late Thursday from Tuskegee giving a statement from President Patterson to the effect that the institute will not change its records.

Following is the text of the resolution:

North Carolina,
Gaston County,

The board of commissioners of Gaston county, North Carolina discussed the report of the Tuskegee Institute listing the murder of Robert Melker, of Gaston county, on April 13, 1941 as a lynching; and desiring to protest the erroneous inclusion of Melker's death in the report of lynchings, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Be it resolved by the board of commissioners of Gaston county, North Carolina, that said board does hereby protest the erroneous inclusion by the Tuskegee Institute of the murder of Robert Melker, of Gaston county, North Carolina, as a lynching;

That but one lynching has ever occurred in this county in its entire history and that was more than fifty-seven years ago;

That said board requests an investigation of the facts involved in the death of Robert Melker to the end that this untrue and unfair report released by the Tuskegee Institute may be corrected; that Robert Melker was murdered as a result of a quarrel with four drunk men, all of whom are serving long terms in the penitentiary of the State of North Carolina; and

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the board and a certified copy be sent to the president of the Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama.

North Carolina,
Gaston county.

I, C. E. Dent, clerk of the board of commissioners of Gaston county North Carolina, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was unanimously passed by the board of commissioners of Gaston county, North Carolina at its regular meeting on Monday, July 7, 1941.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 10th day of July, 1941.

C. E. DENT,
Clerk of the Board of Commissioners of Gaston County, North Carolina.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
July 9, 1941

The Lynching Record

Three lynchings for the first six months of 1941 are recorded by Tuskegee Institute in a communication which appears in today's Voice of the People from President Patterson, of the institute, but vigorous demurrers already are being entered in North Carolina to one of them. Informed Tar Heels are protesting that the killing of a Negro in Gaston County April 13 by four white youths, following a rock battle, was not a lynching. The four white youths are now serving terms from 14 to 25 years.

There seems to be something in the argument of the North Carolinians. Admittedly there are borderline cases which under one definition will be termed a "lynching" and under another will be bracketed as a "murder." Taking everything into consideration, the killing under notice impresses us as more properly placed in the latter category. There was nothing remotely resembling a mob anywhere in the picture.

Last December the Commission on Interracial Relations, the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People held a joint conference at Tuskegee, which was attended by other Southern leaders, for the purpose of arriving at a definition of lynching which would be satisfactory to all. Apparently complete agreement was never reached, for the N. A. A. C. P., which usually has operated under a broader definition than the other two bodies, published a definition soon afterward in its annual report for 1940 which differed from that carried in the Southern Frontier, the organ of the two Southern interracial agencies.

The N. A. A. C. P. termed a lynching "an activity in which persons in defiance of law administer punishment by death to an individual for an alleged offense or to an individual with whom some offense has been associated." But the Commission on Interracial Cooperation says a lynching is the killing of a person "by a group acting under the pretext of service to justice, race or tradition."

The classification of the North Carolina killing as a lynching by Tuskegee indicates that something nearer the N. A. A. C. P. definition, rather than the Interracial Commission definition, was used in this particular instance. This seems a mistake, for the N. A. A. C. P. definition is too broad. Can't it be interpreted as placing in the lynching category any homicide in which two men kill another? Such a sweeping and all-inclusive use of the term impresses one as utterly unscientific. Moreover, how is one to avoid counting scores of gang killings in the North as lynchings, under its terms?

Actually, then, it would appear that only two genuine lynchings have occurred below the Potomac during the first six months of 1941. If the second half of the year can be kept clean of this stain, and Tuskegee can be persuaded not to count the Carolina killing, it will be the best year in the South's postbellum history. The best previous record was for 1939, when Tuskegee reported only three lynch victims. There were five in 1940.—The Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Concord, N. C. Tribune
July 6, 1941

FALSELY ACCUSED.

In reporting that three lynchings occurred in the United States in the first six months of 1941, The Tuskegee Institute recorded one of them against Gaston county, this State.

And facts in the case show that the occusation has no foundation. From the Raleigh News and Observer we get the following account of what occurred in Gaston:

"The last case occurred in North Carolina on Sunday, April 13, when Robert Melker, a 23-year-old Gaston county negro farmer, was shot and killed at his home near Cherryville, Gaston county, following a rock fight which grew out of an argument with four white boys, Graham and Haywood Dellinger, Robert Sellers and Fred Hudson. Within ten days after the shooting all four of the white boys were sentenced to prison terms ranging from 14 to 25 years, which they are now serving.

The evidence at the trial at Gastonia before Judge Frank Armstrong showed that Sellers was wounded when the mother of the negro broke up the rock fight by firing a shotgun. It was also alleged that the negro man had a gun, which he had no opportunity to use, when the white boys returned to his farm, after leaving to secure two shotguns. The killing of Melker grew entirely out of incidents of that afternoon and no other persons were concerned in any way."

We have always been prone to accept the Tuskegee figures without serious question but if this is the manner in which they are collected we'll accept them with considerable salt hereafter.

This was no lynching; it was an altercation out of which murder or manslaughter, grew.

Tuskegee officials must move with greater precaution hereafter if they don't want their reports dropped into the wastebasket along with other data which cannot be trusted.

Roanoke, Va., World News
July 9, 1941

The Lynching Record

During the first six months of 1941 there have been three lynchings, according to the carefully compiled records of Tuskegee Institute, which refuses to admit to its list ordinary brawls, fights and other crimes which are not in themselves attacks on the law and on the courts.

All three of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, stealing from employer, and altercation with white men.

The States in which lynchings occurred were Florida, Georgia and North Carolina.

In one instance recently reported, a mob took a prisoner from a jail and later returned him, with the statement that there was a lack of evidence against him. There is no indication of whether the three lynching mobs of 1941 found evidence or even looked for it. Nor is there any evidence that two of the States where lynchings have occurred have started proceedings against members of lynching mobs or against sheriffs and jailers who meekly surrendered prisoners entrusted to their keeping.

The discouraging feature of the report is the listing of a lynching in North Carolina, for that State has been free of this disgrace for a dozen or more years—in fact ever since the leaders of the mob who stormed the Asheville jail were sent to the penitentiary. Stiff prosecution of those who take part in such mobs can end lynching in any State. It has ended in States where public opinion will not tolerate mob action and will not keep in office those who yield without a struggle to the demands of such mobs.

North Carolina is protesting with some point that Tuskegee has done it an injustice, that the fight in which a Negro was killed was not an attack on the law or on a prisoner, and points with some pride to the fact that three white men who participated in this killing are now serving sentences in the North Carolina State Penitentiary.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
July 5, 1941

Three Murders

Three lynchings make up the record of the first six months of 1941, according to a bulletin issued by the Tuskegee Institute. All persons lynched were Negroes and the offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; stealing from employer, 1; altercation with white men, 1. Georgia, Florida and North Carolina each reported one lynching.

It will be admitted by all reasonable persons that there was no justification for and of those murders. The charge of attempted rape was not proved. To lynch men for engaging in an altercation or for stealing was rankest murder. An appeal to the courts in the three cases recorded would have resulted in the administration of justice according to the laws of the three states.

Only brutes take part in lynchings and in night ridings that are staged to flog or frighten.

Athens, Ga., Banner-Herald
July 7, 1941

ONLY THREE LYNCHINGS THIS YEAR

So far this year only three lynchings have occurred in the United States. Unfortunate for this section of the country, the three occurred in southern states, Florida, Georgia and North Carolina. One of the victims of the lynchings was charged with attempted rape, another with stealing from his employer, and the third with "altercation with white men."

While this is a small number for the whole country, yet it is just three too many. None should have occurred in this enlightened country with its growing sentiment against such lawlessness. This record, of course, is for the first six months of 1941.

Such action on the part of our people is inexcusable. Organized mobs defiant of the law is nothing short of bordering on barbarism. A furated gathering of men is hard to control, especially, if the leaders are hot headed and egged on by the mob. To stop them is practically impossible and before it is realized, a crime is committed that leaves a black spot hard to erase or to wipe off the horizon of a law abiding nation or section of the country.

Spartanburg, S. C. Journal
July 4, 1941

For the First Half

For the first six months of 1941 a total of three lynchings is registered, each victim a negro and each state in the South, according to the Tuskegee institute's department of records and research. These lynchings occurred in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina.

South Carolina's slate so far is clean. May it continue that way for the remaining months of the year and ever thereafter. Lynching is mob violence and rule of the most loathsome, cowardly type, and each instance recorded lessens respect for law and constituted authority. Progress has been made in eliminating this infamy in Southern states, but there is still a long distance to go.

Albany, Ga., Herald
July 2, 1941

LYNCHING RECORD.

There were three lynchings in the United States during the first six months of 1941. According to records compiled by Tuskegee Institute, one occurred in Florida, one in Georgia and one in North Carolina. All the victims were Negroes. One was charged with attempted rape, another with stealing from his employer, and the third with "altercation with white men."

The fact that there has been steady improvement in the nation's lynching record cannot fail to be pleasing, yet three cases of such lawlessness in any six-month period should give concern to those who believe that obedience to constituted authority is "one of the mud-sills of a democracy." One lynching in any year is one too many, for it represents a conspiracy of men to defeat the ends of justice and weaken the structure of government.

If the victim of a mob deserves death, it is a reasonable assumption that he will receive justice at the hands of the courts. No mob inflamed by passion is competent to judge a man accused of crime, and its members become criminals when they take the law into their own hands.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 4, 1941

Last Lynching, And Only One, Occurred In April; 1884, McCully Negro Was Hanged

Lynching Took Place on What is Known as Lower Dallas Road; Negro Had Killed Mr. Thomas Wilson, of South Point Township.

A check of records today, prompted by the fact that Tuskegee Institute has erroneously reported the shooting of Robert Melker, 28-year-old Cherryville Negro last Easter Sunday, April 13, as a lynching, revealed that the last lynching in Gaston county—and the only lynching the county ever had, so far as any available records show—occurred more than 57 years ago on April 1, 1884.

This only lynching in the county's history was reported in The Gazette of April 4, 1884, as follows:

"We are necessarily forced to chronicle an event this week the like of which has never before occurred in Gaston county and we trust will never happen again.

MEN DISGUISED

"On last Monday night about midnight a body of disguised men entered the Town of Dallas and forcibly took from the jail the Negro, McCully, who it is remembered, about two weeks ago took the life of Mr. Thomas Wilson, of South Point township. Carrying McCully about two miles out of town and tying a rope around his neck, they hanged him to the limb of a large white oak where he was found early Tuesday morning still swinging from the limb.

"It seems that Mr. Rhyne, the jailer, was taken completely by surprise. A number of men went to his door and, having aroused him from his slumbers, told him they had a prisoner for him, and not suspecting otherwise, he opened his door and asked them into his house. Some of them quickly took advantage of it as it placed them in a position in which they could then more easily accomplish their designs.

MAD PRISONER

"They then informed him that they did not bring him a prisoner but that they came for one, and about the same time they placed Mr. Rhyne under arrest and kept him under surveillance till they accomplished their purpose. In some way they got possession of the keys and soon reached the cell of McCully whom they seized and, forcibly carrying away, hanged within a few feet of Holland's bridge on Long Creek.

"As an honest journalist and as a citizen who believes in upholding and bowing submissively to the laws of the land, we are compelled to say that we are mortified at the transaction. It will be a blot upon the heretofore good name of Gaston county. Under the circumstances we consider that such a proceeding is a stab at the liberty we all so much pretend to reverence. If justice had not heretofore been meted out to violators of the law, then possibly there might sometimes be an excuse for the people's taking the law into their own hands and summarily punishing in extreme cases. But we think that offenders do not often go unpunished in this county and consequently, in our humble opinion, a great blunder was committed. It was itself, we conceive, an unnecessary violation of the laws of the land."

NO ARRESTS

So far as the records show no arrests were made in this case and the lynchers were never apprehended or punished. What efforts were made to apprehend the members of the mob is not stated, but in the light of conditions as they existed in the South half a century ago, it is easy to assume that such efforts were, at the best, perfunctory.

Gaston county was established in 1846, ninety-five years ago and, so far as any records are available the lynching of McCully in 1884, is the only instance of its kind in the entire history of Gaston.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 4, 1941

AN UNDESERVED BLACK MARK

Designation of Tuskegee Institute, in its semi-annual report released Thursday, of the Melker murder in this county as a "lynching" came as a startling surprise to the citizenship of this county both white and colored.

If not erased from the records of the Alabama institution it will stand there forever as a black mark against the good name of a county which has not had a lynching for considerably more than half a century.

County officials and business and civic leaders of both races should, and no doubt will, protest to President Patterson and his research staff against this injustice.

The Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club have already entered protests. Others will no doubt be made within the next few days.

The killing of Robert Melker, young Negro of the Cherryville section, by four white boys on Easter Sunday, April 20th, was a brutal crime. The white boys, in a drunken condition, insulted the Negro as they rode in an automobile along the highway. Angered at them, the Negro, according to testimony given at the trial, threw some rocks. The white youths did likewise. The Negro youth's mother came from the house and fired a shotgun, slightly wounding one of the white boys. They drove off, secured firearms, came back to the scene and were met by the Negro coming from the house with a shotgun in his hand. They fired and killed him.

It was an inexcusable crime. It was condemned as vehemently by the white citizenship as by the Negroes.

Sheriff Robinson and his deputies got on the job immediately and never ceased their activities until the four criminals were behind the bars. That was accomplished within 24 hours. Within ten days these four young hoodlums were tried in Gaston Superior court, convicted and sentenced to State's prison for terms ranging from 14 to 25 years. The quick and efficient manner in which the case was handled was approved heartily by the entire citizenship of the county of all races.

What standards the Tuskegee Institute uses for determining just what constitutes a lynching we do not know. Through a long period of years the Institute's tabulation of lynching throughout the country and the resultant publicity has no doubt had some effect in decreasing the number of such crimes. Listing of this particular crime, however, as a lynching will cause many to wonder how many other reported lynchings listed at Tuskegee have not been lynchings in the accepted meaning of the term but just plain murders. Commission of a murder places a stigma and a responsibility upon one or more individuals. A lynching is an indictment of a whole community, county and State.

If Tuskegee Institute wants to be fair, if it wants the newspapers to continue to accept its semi-annual reports on lynchings as fact and not fiction, it should erase this case from its records and send out another statement to the press of the United States acknowledging its error.

Dr. Henry C. McDowell, president of Lincoln Academy and an outstanding leader of the Negro race in the South, states that neither he nor any other leader of his group at any time considered this crime a lynching. Dr. McDowell, who holds a Ph. D. degree from Yale, who is a man of learning, culture and influence, is also a man of common sense. An ardent advocate of the rights of his race and a tireless laborer for improvement among its members, he commands the highest respect of all the white people of both low and high degree, who come in contact with him. Dr. McDowell is right here at the scene of the crime and is familiar with every detail of the evidence. He says it was not a lynching.

Elsewhere in this column is reproduced an editorial from yesterday's edition of The Raleigh News and Observer which presents the case pointedly and logically.

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Aiken, S. C., Standard & Review
December 31, 1941

FOUR PEOPLE WERE LYNCHED DURING 1941

The Aiken Standard and Review has been officially notified by F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute that there were four persons lynched in the United States during the year 1941, and that 21 persons were saved from mob violence during the year.

Patterson's Letter

The following letter from President Patterson reveals the fact that one person was lynched in each of the four southern states during the past year, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

The communication to this newspaper reads:

"I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year, 1941. I find, according to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research there were 4 persons lynched in 1941. This is 1 less than the number 5 for the year 1940, 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for the year 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail.

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total number of 21 persons—1 white man and 20 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; North Carolina, 1; South Carolina, 1."

Blakeley, Ga. News
January 1, 1942

STATISTICS ON 1941 LYNCHINGS ARE ANNOUNCED

Acording to the reports compiled in the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., four persons were lynched in the United States in 1941. This is 1 less than the number 5 for the year 1940, 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for the year 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail.

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used. A total number of 21 persons—1 white man and 20 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; North Carolina, 1; South Carolina, 1.

Quincy, Fla., Times
January 1, 1942

Tuskegee Report Shows Four Lynched in 1941

Four persons, all negroes, were lynched in the United States during 1941, according to an annual report prepared by the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute and released this week. The year's total was a decrease of one from five lynchings recorded in 1940.

Lynchings were recorded in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Lawrenceville, Ga., News-Herald
January 1, 1942

INFORMATION ON LYNCHINGS

According to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee Institute there were four persons lynched in 1941. This is one less than the number five for the year 1940; one more than the number three for the year 1939; two less than the number six for the year 1938, and four less than the number eight for the year 1937.

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state, and 18 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used. A total number of 21 persons—one white man and 20 negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with white men, 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; North Carolina, 1; South Carolina, 1.

Andalusia, Ala., Star
January 1, 1942

Only 4 Persons Lynched In 1941, Is Claim

According to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were 4 persons lynched in 1941. This is 1 less than the number 5 for the year 1940, 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for the year 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail.

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case ,armed force was used. A total number of 21 persons—1 white man and 20 negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; North Carolina, 1; South Carolina, 1.

Montezuma Ga. Georgian
January 1, 1942

Four Lynchings In Nation In 1941; One In Georgia

Information issued from Tuskegee Institute indicate that of the four lynchings that occurred in the United States during 1941 all were Negroes and took place in Southern states.

The number for the nation was one less than the number 5 for the year 1940; 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938 and 4 less than the number 8 for the year 1937. One of the men lynched was taken from the jail.

The states in which lynchings occured and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; North Carolina, 1; South Carolina, 1

There were 19 reports on instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total number of 21, 1 white man and 20 Negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Offenses of the negroes lynched were: attempted rape; suspicion of stealing, altercation with white man, working on job from which whites had been discharged.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
January 1, 1942

FOUR LYNCHINGS IN 1941 ARE REPORTED

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31—Four lynchings were reported for 1941 by the Tuskegee Institute department of records and research, Institute President F. D. Patterson announced.

Other related findings reported by the department and announced by President Patterson were:

The 1941 figure compares with five for 1940, three for 1939, six for 1938 and eight for 1937.

One person lynched in 1940 was taken from a jail.

There were 19 instances reported in which officers prevented lynchings, one in a Northern state and 18 in the South.

Those lynched were Negroes, and charges against them were attempted criminal assault, one; suspected theft, one; altercation with white man, one, and working on job from which white persons had been discharged, one.

One lynching occured in each of four states, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Oneida, Tenn. News
January 2, 1942

6632

FOUR LYNCHINGS ARE REPORTED FOR YEAR

6632

Report Compiled By Tuskegee Institute of Alabma.

We publish the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1941. According to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were four persons lynched in 1941. This is one less than the number, five, for the year 1940, one more than the number (3) or the year 1939; two less than the number (6) for the year 1938. and four less than the number (8) for the year 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail.

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state and stances was in a northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented to other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used. A total number of 21 persons—one white man and 20 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercations with white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia

1; North Carolina, 1; South Carolina, 1.

Cullman, Ala. Democrat
January 1, 1942

Only Four Negroes Are Lynched During 1941; All in Southern States

There were only four persons lynched during 1941 in the entire country, according to a report by the Tuskegee Institute. This was one less than in 1940. One of the persons lynched was taken from jail.

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instanres was in a northern state and 18 in southern states.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged, 1.

States in which lynchings occurred were: one each, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina.

Newport, Tenn. Plain Talk
January 1, 1942

FOUR NEGROES LYNCHED DURING PAST YEAR

According to records compiled by the Tuskegee Institute of Tuskegee, Ala., four lynchings were committed during 1941 as compared with five in 1940; three in 1939; six in 1938, and eight in 1937. All four victims were Negroes. Nineteen instances were reported in which officers prevented lynchings by either placing guards about the victims, removing them to safer places or through other precautions.

The states in which lynchings occurred were Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Offenses charged were: Attempted rape, suspected of stealing, altercation with white men and working on a job from which white had been discharged.

Florence, Ala., Herald
January 2, 1942

Only 4 Lynchings Reported In 1941

During 1941 only four lynchings occurred in the United States, according to reports compiled by Tuskegee Institute. The offenses charged against the victims were one each of attempted rape, suspected stealing, altercation with white man, and working on job from which whites had been discharged.

All persons lynched were Negroes, one each in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Precautions taken by officials prevented 21 other threats of mob violence.

Lynchings during the last five years were as follows: In 1937, 8; 1938, 6; 1939, 3; 1940, 5; 1941, 4.

37n2 1941

6635

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Four Victims Of Mobs In '41, Says Tuskegee

DEC 28 1941

Number Is One More Than Total For Year, 1939

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE—(ANP)—Reports compiled by the department of records and research reveal that there were four persons lynched in 1941 according to Dr. F. D Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute. This number is one less than in 1940; one more than in 1939; two less than in 1938; and four less than in 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from jail.

The record further shows that there were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the instances was in a northern state, and 10 in southern states. In 18 instances, persons upon whom lynch attempts were made were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. Armed force was used in one case. One white man and 20 Negro men were saved from the hands of mobs in 1941.

All four persons lynched in 1941 were Negroes, who were charged with attempted rape, suspected of stealing, altercation with a white man, and working on job which whites had been discharged. Each lynching occurred in a different state—Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

High Point, N C Enterprise
December 31, 1941

Tuskegee Reports Quartet Of Negroes Lynched In 1941

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31—(AP)—Tuskegee Institute reported today that four persons, all Negroes, were lynched in 1941 and in 19 other instances officers of the law prevented lynchings.

The report, released by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the Negro school, said the lynchings compared with five in 1940 and three in 1939.

The four lynchings were in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, the department reported. The victims were accused, respectively, of attempted rape, stealing, fighting with a white man and working on a job from which whites had been discharged, the report added. One was removed from jail by the killers.

Dr. Patterson summarized the details as follows:

February 15, 1941, Andrews, (Georgetown County) South Carolina; Bruce Tisdale, Negro; charge: working on a job from which whites had been discharged; died of head wounds.

April 13, 1941, Gaston County (near Cherryville) North Carolina; Robert Melker, Negro; charge: altercation with white men; shot to death in his home.

May 6, 1941, Blakely, (Earl County) Georgia; Robert Sapp, Negro; charge: suspected of stealing from his employer; flogged with a club and a piece of machine belting.

May 13, 1941, Quincy, (Gadsden County) Florida; A. C. Williams, Negro; charge: attempted rape upon a 12-year-old white girl; beaten and body riddled with bullets.

Albany Decatur Ala Daily
December 31, 1941

FOUR LYNCHED DURING YEAR

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31—(AP)—Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research reported today that four persons, all negroes, were lynched during 1941 and there were 19 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings.

The report, announced by Dr. F. D. Patterson, Institute president, said the lynchings were one less than the five in 1940 and one more than those reported during the previous year.

One of the instances in which mob action was halted by officers occurred in the North and the other 18 in Southern states, the department said, adding that as a result, the lives of one white man and 20 negroes were saved.

The four lynchings were divided evenly between Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina with the offenses charged being one case each of attempted rape, suspected of stealing, altercation with a white man and working on a job from which whites had been discharged, the report said.

The department found six persons were lynched in 1938 and eight in 1937. One of those lynched this year was removed from a jail, it said.

Hickory, N C. Record
December 31, 1941

4 LYNCHED, 19 SAVED IN 1941, COLLEGE SAYS

Tuskegee Issues Report On Mob Violence Cases

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31.—(AP)—Tuskegee institute reported today that four persons, all negroes, were lynched in 1941 and in nineteen other instances officers of the law prevented lynchings.

The report, released by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the negro school, said the lynchings compared with five in 1940 and three in 1939.

The four lynchings were in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, the department reported. The victims were accused, respectively, of attempted rape, stealing, fighting with a white man and working on a job from which whites had been discharged, the report added. One was removed from jail by the killers.

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May 6, 1941, Blakely, (Early county) Georgia; Robert Sapp, negro; charge: Suspected of stealing from his employer; flogged with a club and a piece of machine belting.

May 13, 1941, Quincy (Gadsden county) Florida; A. C. Williams, negro; charge: attempted rape upon a twelve-year-old white girl; beaten and body riddled with bullets.

Statesville N C Daily
January 1, 1942

Four Negroes Lynched In 1941

Tuskegee, Ala., Jan. 1.—Tuskegee institute reported today that four persons, all negroes, were lynched in 1941 and in nineteen other instances officers of the law prevented lynchings.

The report, released by Dr. F. D Patterson, president of the negro school, said the lynchings compared with five in 1940 and three in 1939.

The four lynchings were in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, the department reported. The victims were accused, respectively, of attempted rape, stealing, fighting with a white man and working on a job from which whites had been discharged, the report added. One was removed from jail by the killers.

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May 13, 1941, Quincy (Gadsden county) Florida; A. C. Williams, negro; charge; attempted rape upon a twelve-year-old white girl; beaten and body riddled with bullets.

Opelika, Ala News
January 1, 1942

Only 4 Lynchings Recorded In 1941, All Were In South

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 31.—(AP)—Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research reported today that four persons, all negroes, were lynched during 1941 and there were 19 instances in which officers of the law, prevented lynchings.

The report, announced by Dr. F. D. Patterson, Institute president, said the lynchings were one less than the five in 1940 and one more than those reported during the previous year.

One of the instances in which mob action was halted by officers occurred in the north and the other 18 in southern states, the department said, adding that as a result, the lives of one white man and 20 negroes were saved.

The four lynchings were divided evenly between Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina with the offenses charged being one case each of attempted rape, suspected of stealing, altercation with a white man and working on a job from which whites had been discharged, the report said.

The department found six persons were lynched in 1938 and eight in 1937. One of those lynched this year was removed from a jail, it said.

Camden, S. C. Chronicle
January 9, 1942

Says Negro Not Lynched

Georgetown, Jan. 1—Sheriff H. B. Bruorton denied to day that Bruce Tisdale, a negro, was "lynched" in Georgetown county last February as reported by the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

The "lynching was one of four the nstitute claimed were committed over the nation in 1941.

The sheriff said "nobody was lynched in this county this year. Bruce Tisdale got in a fight with a white man and was killed."

Sumter, S. C., Daily Item
January 1, 1942

Sheriff Says Negro Not Lynched In S. C.

Georgetown, Jan. 1.—(AP)—Sheriff H. B. Bruorton denied today that Bruce Tisdale, a negro, was "lynched' in Georgetown county last February as reported by the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

The "lynching" was one of four the institute claimed were committed over the nation in 1941.

The sheriff said "nobody was lynched in this county this year. * * * Bruce Tisdale got in a fight with a white man and was killed."

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
December 28, 1941

Lynching Record

Editor, Telegraph and News:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1941. I find, according to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were 4 persons lynched in 1941. This is 1 less than the number 5 for the year 1940, 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for the yaer 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail.

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or precautions taken In 1 case, armed force was used A total number of 21 persons—1 white man and 20 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; North Carolina, 1; South Carolina, 1.

F. D. PATTERSON
President Tuskegee Institute.
Tuskegee.

Gastonia N. C. Gazette
December 31, 1941

Tuskegee Lists Four 1941 Lynchings, One For Gaston County

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31.—(AP)—Tuskegee Institute reported today that four persons, all Negroes, were lynched in 1941 and in 19 other instances officers of the law prevented lynchings.

The report, released by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the Negro school, said the lynchings compared with five in 1940 and three in 1939.

The four lynchings were in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, the department reported. The victims were accused, respectively, of attempted rape, stealing, fighting with a white man and working on a job from which whites had been discharged, the report added. One was removed from jail by the killers.

Dr. Patterson summarized the details as follows:

February 15, 1941, Andrews, (Georgetown county), South Carolina; Bruce Tisdale, Negro; charge: working on a job from which whites had been discharged; died of head wounds.

April 13, 1941, Gaston county, (near Cherryville) North Carolina; Robert Melker, Negro; charge: altercation with white men; shot to death in his home.

May 6, 1941, Blakely, (Early county), Georgia; Robert Sapp, Negro; charge: suspected of stealing from his employer; flogged with a club and a piece of machine belting.

May 13, 1941, Quincy, (Gadsden county), Florida; A. C. Williams, Negro; charge: attempted rape upon a 12-year-old white girl; beaten and body riddled with bullets.

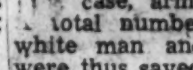
Greensboro, N. C., News
January 4, 1942

LYNCHINGS IN 1941.

Editor of The Daily News:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1941. I find, according to the reports compiled in the department of records and research, there were 4 persons lynched in 1941. This is 1 less than the number 5 for the year 1040, 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for the year 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail.

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in southern



instances, persons or guards augother precautions taken case, armed force was used. total number of 21 persons—1 white man and 20 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; North Carolina, 1; South Carolina, 1.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President, Tuskegee Institute,
Tuskegee, Ala.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

THE LYNCHING TOLL

JAN 3 - 1942

The lynching toll for 1941 has been published, revealing that five Negroes met their death by mob action during a year when the air rang with talk about freedom and democracy, while two were murdered in court rooms under the eyes of "law enforcement" officers.

Texas and Georgia, disgraced the nation with two each of the fatal attacks while Florida, South Carolina and North Carolina followed with one each.

There were many other lynchings not reported in the press because covered up by local authorities as "mere killings."

JAN 3 - 1942

The lynchers are beginning to get a little bolder under cover of war excitement.

The New Year should be begun with the introduction in both houses of Congress of a strong anti-lynching bill.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

REVEALS '41 LYNCHING RECORD IS ONE LESS THAN '40

JAN 3 1942

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Jan. 1—(ANP)—Reports compiled by the department of records and research reveal that there were four persons lynched in 1941, according to Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee institute. This number is one less than in 1940; one more than in 1939; two less than in 1938, and four less than in 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from jail.

The record further shows that there were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the instances was in a Northern State and 18 in Southern States. In 18 instances, persons upon whom lynch attempts were made were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. Armed force was used in one case. One white man and 20 Negro men were saved from the hands of mobs in 1941.

All four persons lynched in 1941 were Negroes, who were charged with attempted rape, suspected of stealing, altercation with a white man, and working on job from which whites had been discharged. Each lynching occurred in a different State—Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. JAN 3 - 1942

afro-american
Baltimore, Maryland

Tuskegee Lists Four Lynchings in 1941

JAN 3 - 1942

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — According to the report of the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee Institute, four persons were lynched during 1941.

Comparatives figures show that this number is one less than the five persons lynched in 1940 and one more than the three for the year 1939. Statistics on file also show that six persons were lynched in 1938 and eight were lynched in 1937. One of the persons lynched during 1941 was taken from the jail.

There were nineteen reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of these instances occurred in a Northern State while all others were in Southern States.

21 Saved from Mobs

In eighteen cases persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In only one case was armed forces used. Twenty-one persons—one white man and twenty colored men—were thus saved from mob violence. JAN 3 - 1942

All persons lynched were colored. The States in which lynchings occurred were Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. The offenses charged were attempted rape, suspicion of stealing, altercation with a white man and working on a job from which whites had been discharged.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

All Victims Were Negroes Says Patterson

Georgia, Florida, North And South Carolina Are Problem States

JAN 3 - 1942

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—Dec. 25, In a statement issued today President F. D. Patterson said:

According to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were 4 persons lynched in 1941. This is 1 less than the number 5 for the year 1940, 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for the year 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail. JAN 3 - 1942

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total number of 21 persons—1 white man and 20 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs. JAN 3 - 1942

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with white man, 1; working on job from which had been discharged, 1.

The states in which lynchings occured and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; North Carolina, 1; South Carolina, 1.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Tuskegee Reports 4 Lynchings

JAN 2 - 1942

Their Records Show One Less Than in 1940

JAN 2 - 1942

TUSKEGEE Institute—(ANP)—Reports compiled by the department of records and research reveal that there were four persons lynched in 1941, acoording to Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute. This number is one less than in 1940; one more than in 1939; two less than in 1938; and four less than in 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from jail.

JAN 2 - 1942

The record further shows that there were 19 reports of instances in which officeres of the law prevented lynchings. One of the instances was in a northern state and 18 in southern states. In 18 instances, persons upon whom lynch attempts were made were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. Armed force was used in one case. One white man and 20 Negro men were saved from the hands of mobs in 1941.

All four persons lynched in 1941 were Negroes, who were charged with attempted rape, suspected of stealing, altercation with a white man, and working on job which whites had been discharged. Each lynching occurred in a different state--Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

37n(2)-1941

6636

Covington, Tenn. Leader
January 1, 1942

One Less Lynching Reported For 1941

According to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research by Tuskegee Institute, there were 4 persons lynched in 1941. This is 1 less than the number 5 for the year 1940, 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for the year 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail.

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a Northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in Southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total of 21 persons—1 white man and 20 negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida 1, Georgia 1, North Carolina 1, and South Carolina 1.

Marion, Ala., Standard
January 1, 1942

Alabama Has No Lynchings

According to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were 4 persons lynched in 1941. This is 1 less than the number 5 for the year 1940, 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for the year 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail.

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total number of 21 persons—1 white man and 20 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; North Carolina, 1; South Carolina, 1.

Thomaston, Ga., Times
January 15, 1942

FOUR NEGROES LYNCHED IN U. S. IN 1941

T-28

Four persons, all negroes, were lynched in the United States during the past year, reports compiled by the Tuskeegee Department of Records and Research reveal.

The once popular method of justice by lynching has become almost extinct.

In 1940 five persons were lynched; only three were lynched in 1939 but six were lynched in 1938 and eight in 1937.

The offenses charged against the four negroes lynched last year were: Attempted rape, suspected of stealing, altercation with white man, and working on job from which whites had been discharged.

One lynching occured in each of the following four Southern states: Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In ane case, armed force was used.

Laurel, Miss. Call
January 1, 1942

Four Lynchings in Year Revealed by Tuskegee Records

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Jan. 1.—Tuskegee Institute reported that four persons, all negroes, were lynched in 1941 and in 19 other instances officers of the law prevented lynchings.

The report, released by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the negro school, said the lynchings compared with five in 1940 and three in 1939. The institute's department of records and research reported six lynchings in 1938 and eight in 1937.

One of the instances in which mob action was balked occurred in the north and the remainder in the south. As a result, the lives of one white man and 20 negroes were saved, the report said.

The four lynchings were in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, the department reported. The victims were accused, respectively, of attempted rape, stealing, fighting with a white man and working on a job from which whites had been discharged, the report added. One was removed from jail by the killers.

Fairhope, Ala., Courier
January 1, 1942

Lynchings On The Decline Alabama Free From The Stigma

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1941. I find, according to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were 4 persons lynched in 1941. This is 1 less than the number 5 for the year 1940, 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for the year 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail.

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances were in southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augment ed or other precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total number of 21 persons, 1 white man and 20 Negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; North Carolina, 1; South Carolina, 1.

Lanett, Ala. Times
December 31, 1941

4 Persons Lynched In United States During 1941

Four persons were lynched in the United States during 1941, according to information released by the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee Institute. This number is one less than for 1940.

All persons lynched were Negroes, the offenses charged being attmpted rape (1), suspected of stealing (1), altercation wtih white man (1), working on job from which whites had been discharged (1).

The states in which the lynchings occurred are as follows: Florida (1), Georgia (1), North Carolina (1), South Carolina (1).

Officers prevented the lynchings of 19 others, the report states.

Bennettsville (S. C.) Herald
January 1, 1942

FOUR LYNCHINGS DURING PAST YEAR

According to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were 4 persons lynched in 1941. This is 1 less than the number 5 for the 1940, 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for the year 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail.

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used. A total number of 21 persons—1 white man and 20 negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; North Carolina, 1; South Carolina, 1.

Madison, Ga., Madisonian
January 16, 1942

Only Four Lynchings In U. S. During 1941

Officers Stop Nineteen Attempts by Precaution. One in Georgia

Only four persons were lynched in the United States in 1941 according to the reports compiled in the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., and just released for publication.

This is 1 less than the number 5 for the year 1940, 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 or the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for the year 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail.

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All persons lynched were negroes. The offense charged were: Attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been dicharged, 1.

The statess in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; North Carolina, 1; South Carolina,

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Patterson Insists Carolina Killing Was a Lynching

JAN 17 1942

BALTIMORE.—Dr. F. D. Patterson told the AFRO here on Sunday that the killing of a colored man at Cherryville, N.C., last year by four white men was a lynching, despite the protestations of the North Carolina press that it was a "bestial murder."

Four young white men shot the man after he had resented the insulting of his wife by the group. The men were given long prison terms. When the yearly report of Tuskegee Institute listed this as a "lynching," the white Carolina papers protested vehemently. "Murder," they admitted; "lynching,"

JAN 17 1942

"It was not a gangster killing," Dr. Patterson stated, "but a matter of taking the law into their own hands for the administration of their kind of justice." That, he said, constitutes a lynching.

Lafayette, Ala., Sun
December 31, 1941

FOUR LYNCHINGS DURING 1941; NONE IN ALABAMA

According to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, there were 4 persons lynched in 1941. This is 1 less than the number 5 for the year 1940, 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for the year 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail.

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All persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; North Carolina, 1; South Carolina, 1.

Dawson, Ga., News
January 8, 1942

ONLY FOUR LYNCHED IN U. S. DURING 1941

OFFICERS STOP NINETEEN ATTEMPTS BY PRECAUTION. ONE IN GEORGIA.

Only four persons were lynched in the United States in 1941 according to the reports compiled in the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., and just released for publication.

This is 1 less than the number 5 for the year 1940, 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for the year 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail.

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used. A total number of 21 persons—1 white man and 20 negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; North Carolina, 1; South Carolina, 1.

Honea Path, S. C. Chronicle
January 1, 1942

LYCHINGS DECREASE

According to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, by Tuskegee Institute, there were 4 persons lynched in 1941. This is 1 less than the number 5 for the year 1940, 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for the year 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail.

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The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; North Carolina, 1; South Carolina, 1.

Kingstree, S. C., Record
January 1, 1942

4 Persons Lynched in 1941

According to the reports compiled in the department of records and research, there were four persons lynched in 1941. This is 1 less than the number 5 for the year 1940, 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for the year 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail.

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total number of 21 persons—1 white man and 20 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been dscharged, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; North Carolina, 1; South Carolina, 1.

Williston, S. C. Way
January 2, 1942

1941 Lynching Record.

Four persons, all negroes, were lynched in 1941, according to the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute. This is one less than in 1940, one more than in 1939, two less than in 1938 and four less than in 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from a jail. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged, 1. The lynchings occurred in Florida, Georiga, North Carolina and South Carolina.

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings—one in the North and 18 in the South. Twenty-one persons, one white and 20 negroes, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

37n2-1941

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Columbia, S. C. State
January 1, 1942

Records Show No Lynching In SC in 1941

Although figures circulated by Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., charge South Carolina with one of four lynchings it claims were committed over the nation in 1941, a check of the case referred to in this state carries no evidence to sustain the institute's charge.

On receipt of the Tuskegee figures, The State wired F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee, and requested information on the case as there was no information on such an incident in the files of the newspaper.

President Patterson wired in reply to the query that the South Carolina lynching referred to occurred "February 15, 1941, Andrews, Georgetown county, South Carolina; Bruce Tisdale, Negro, charge: Working on a job from which whites had been discharged; died of head wounds (five men held responsible for death)."

Sheriff H. B. Bruorton of Georgetown county by telephone last night denied that Tisdale was lynched. "Bruce Tisdale got in a fight with a white man and was killed," he said.

The Tuskegee report claims that its figure of four lynchings for 1941 is one less than in 1940, 1 more than in 1939, two less than in 1938, and four less than in 1937. The denial that there was a lynching in South Carolina in 1941 as charged (and the assumption that the other figures provided by Tuskegee may be correct), puts the nation at a tie with the lowest figure previously recorded by the institute.

Georgetown, Dec. 31—(Special)—Sheriff H. B. Bruorton of Georgetown county emphatically denied tonight that Bruce Tisdale, a Negro, was "lynched" in Georgetown county last February as reported by the Tuskegee (Negro) institute in Alabama.

"Nobody was lynched in this county this year," he said, "and you can quote me as saying that. In particular, Bruce Tisdale was not lynched. Bruce Tisdale got in a fight with a white man and was killed."

The sheriff said that two white men were tried on charges of manslaughter in Georgetown general sessions court in connection with the slaying of Tisdale. Both men were convicted, he added, "but their lawyer has appealed" to the state supreme court.

"He (Tisdale) cut a white man with a knife," the sheriff said, "and the white man hit him over the head with an automobile tire pump."

"There hasn't been any lynching in Georgetown county."

Minute Meditations: No less than six football teams—perhaps seven—will be in Tulane stadium January 3, when the East-West game is played....Besides the all-stars on the field, the stands will contain Missouri and Fordham, the Sugar Bowl principals; Alabama, enroute home from the Dallas Cotton Bowl, Oregon State going home from the Durham Bowl; and possibly Texas Christian headed West from Miami's Orange Bowl.

Greenville S C Piedmont
January 1, 1942

No Lynching In The State

Tuskegee Institute Wrong, Check Of Case In Georgetown Reveals

COLUMBIA, Jan. 1—Although figures circulated by Tuskegee institute, Tuckegee, Ala., charge South Carolina with one of four lynchings it claims were committed over the nation in 1941, a check of the case referred to in this state carries no evidence to sustain the institute's charge.

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GEORGETOWN, Jan. 1—Sheriff H. B. Bruorton of Georgetown county emphatically denied that Bruce Tisdale, a negro was "lynched" in Georgetown county last February as reported by the Tusgegee (negro) institute it Alabama.

"Nobody was lynched in this county this year," he said, "and you can quote me as saying that. In particular, Bruce Tisdale was not lynched. Bruce Tisdale got in a fight with a white man and was killed."

Greenwood, S C Index-Journal
January 1, 1942

Georgetown Sheriff Denies Reported Lynching In County

Georgetown, Jan. 1—(AP)—Sheriff H. B. Bruorton denied today that Bruce Tisdale, a negro, was "lynched" in Georgetown county last February as reported by the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

The "lynching" was one of four the institute claimed were committed over the nation in 1941.

The sheriff said "Nobody was lynched in this county this year. x x x Bruce Tisdale got in a fight with a white man and was killed."

West Point, Ga. News
January 1, 1942

4 Persons Lynched In United States During 1941

Four persons were lynched in the United States during 1941, according to information released by the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee Institute. This number is one less than for 1940.

All persons lynched were Negroes, the offenses charged being attmpted rape (1), suspected of stealing (1), altercation wtih white man (1), working on job from which whites had been discharged (1).

The states in which the lynchings occurred are as follows: Florida (1), Georgia (1), North Carolina (1), South Carolina (1).

Officers prevented the lynchings of 19 others, the report states.

Columbia, S. C. Record
January 1, 1942

Denies "Lynching"

Sheriff H. B. Bruorton, of Georgetown county, is not particularly pleased with the report on lynchings in the United States issued by the Tuskee fhstitute . . . It is because Georgetown county was listed as having a lynching . . . The sheriff said "nobody was lynched in this county last year . . . Bruce Tisdale got in a fight with a white man and was killed."

Charleston S C Evening Post
January 1, 1942

Sheriff Denies Any Lynching

Georgetown, Jan. 1. (AP)—Sheriff H. B. Bruorton denied today that Bruce Tisdale, a negro, was "lynched" in Georgetown county last February as reported by the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

The "lynching" was one of four the institute claimed were committed over the nation in 1941.

The sheriff said "Nobody was lynched in this county this year. • • • Bruce Tisdale got in a fight with a white man and was killed."

Chicago Bee.
Chicago, Illinois

FOUR NEGROES LYNCHED IN 1941; 'KEGEE

JAN 4 - 1942

37n(2)

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Dec. 31—Reports compiled by the department of records and research reveal that there were four persons lynched in 1941, according to Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee institute. This number is one less than in 1940; one more than in 1939; two less than in 1938; and four less than in 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from jail.

The record further shows that there were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the instances was in a northern state and 18 in southern states. In 18 instances, persons upon whom lynch attempts were made were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. Armed force was used in one case. One white man and 20 Negro men were saved from the hands of mobs in 1941. JAN 4 - 1942

All four persons lynched in 1941 were Negroes, who were charged with attempted rape, suspected of stealing, altercation with a white man, and working on job which whites had been discharged. Each lynching occurred in a different state—Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

LYNCHING RECORD IMPROVING!

December 23, 1941.

Dear Sir: JAN 1 - 1942

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1941. I find, according to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were 4 persons lynched in 1941. This is I less than the number 5 for the year 1940, 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for the year 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail. JAN 1 - 1942

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total number of 21 persons—1 white man and 20 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape 1; suspected of stealing 1; altercation with white man 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged 1. 37n(2)

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida 1; Georgia 1; North Carolina 1; South Carolina 1.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON,
President.

Argus
St. Louis; Missouri

JAN 9 - 1942

FOUR LYNCHINGS

According to a report of the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama, there were four lynchings in the United States during the year 1941. Of course, all four of the victims were Negroes. These lynchings were not the result of an enraged citizenry of a community, where some heinous crime had been committed by the accused, but the persons lynched happened to be, in the province of God, born colored, a condition over which neither they nor their parents had any control.

These lynchings were in the southern states—the states where the white people are still fighting the ghost of the Civil War. They are still angry with the white people of the north and are wreaking their vengeance on poor, helpless Negroes whenever their feelings dictate.

JAN 9 - 1942

The white people of the South do not necessarily hate the Negro, but their mistreatment of the colored people is just another expression of their contempt for the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments to the federal constitution. The statesmen of the South are drawfed by racial prejudice and therefore, they appear as "little men" in the halls of the congress of the United States. Some of them have been known to plead for hours with their colleagues, importuning them not to enforce the Fourteenth amendment to the federal constitution so that their people at home may lynch, burn and otherwise mutilate the bodies of Negroes at will.

JAN 9 - 1942

Among the crimes with which the Negroes were charged, and which caused the lynching, were such frivolous offenses as "suspected of stealing," "altercation with a white man," "working on a job from which whites had been discharged" and "suspected of attempted rape." These are the "horrible" crimes that enraged the citizens of North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Georgia to snuff the lives out of helpless Negroes without even giving the victims a chance before the courts of the land. Yet the lawmakers of the South are found pleading in the congress of the United States to prevent a law to stop lynching.

Arcadia, Fla., Arcadian
January 1, 1942

RECORD FOR LYNCHING IN 1941

From the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama comes the record of lynchings in the United States during 1941, and Florida is again one of the states which furnished the scene of one of four similar outrages in the nation. Out of four lynchings in the United States during the past year Florida furnished one, and one each in Georgia, North and South Carolina. All occurred in the South, but southern states do not have a monopoly on such things, for they occur about everywhere.

The report shows that nineteen cases occurred during the year in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, one of which was in a northern state, not named. In eighteen instances mob violence was averted by removal of the threatened prisoners or by adding guards, and in one case armed force was used. In this way twenty-one persons, all colored but one, were saved from the hands of mobs.

The four persons lynched were Negroes, and the offenses charged were: attempted rape, suspected of stealing, altercation with a white man, and working on a job where whites had been discharged.

While this record is nothing to be proud of it is one of the best in recent years. Only three such cases occurred in 1939. Mob violence is never justified, but most people would admit that if it ever was it would be in a case of rape or attempted rape. However, there is nothing to reflect any credit on a mob in the other offenses charged, and nothing to in any way provide a shadow of an excuse for the commission of murder.

All in all the report is another evidence that the people have not yet reached the zenith of civilization. And when that is achieved the courts will not provide the incentive for mob violence which they frequently do now.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

JAN 17 1942

Carolinas Smarting Under Lynch Stigma

JAN 17 1942

RALEIGH, N. C., (ANP)—Both North and South Carolina have voiced objections to the annual total of lynching statistics released by Tuskegee Institute which show a lynching was committed in each state during 1941.

JAN 17 1942

When the report for the first half of the year was made public last July, North Carolina protested against including a mobbing in Gaston county in the statistics but to no avail. Following the final finding revealed several days ago, the Raleigh News and Observer voiced the attitude of the state when it said editorially Friday morning:

"The News and Observer has no positive information concerning what occurred in the other three states, but the News and Observer does know that the inclusion of North Carolina was a gross inaccuracy, such a gross inaccuracy as to throw a question mark upon all the figures compiled on the subject. Unless such statistics are accurate they are obviously valueless."

JAN 17 1942

In South Carolina the State, published in Columbia, said in an editorial Friday that it had checked with Tuskegee and an investigation by the newspaper "showed the tragedy was in no sense a lynching."

"The State feels that Tuskegee," the editorial continued, "fathered by Booker T. Washington, and always a leader in the advancement of the Negro, and in good fellowship between the races, should correct its report. There is certainly no evidence in Georgetown, where the lynching was reported to have occurred, to substantiate the Tuskegee findings."

Four Lynched In U. S. During Year

Tuskegee Institute, Ala.—Reports compiled in the department of records and research, and released today by F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee institute, show there were four persons lynched in the United States in 1941.

DEC 31 1941

This is one less than in 1940, one more than 1939, two less than 1938 and four less than 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from jail.

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings; one in northern states, 18 in southern. In 18 instances, persons were removed, guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used.

DEC 31 1941

The states in which lynchings occurred were Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, one each. All persons lynched were Negroes. Offenses charged were attempted rape, one; suspected of stealing, one; altercation with white man, one, and working on job from which whites had been discharged, one.



Tall Tower Topics

DEC 29 1941

Evening Democrat
Waterbury, Conn.

BY THE MAN IN THE TOWER

Editor, Tall Tower Topics . . . I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1941. I find, according to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were 4 persons lynched in 1941. This is 1 less than the number 5 for the year 1940, one more than the number [illegible] for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for the year 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail. There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total number of 21 persons—1 white man and 20 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs. All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged, 1. The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; North Carolina, 1; South Carolina, 1. Very truly yours, F. D. Patterson, President, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama. DEC 29 1941

37n2-1941

6638

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
January 1, 1942

FOUR NEGROES LYNCHED IN '41

Tuskegee Report Still Includes Gaston Killing as One Of Lynchings.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31.—(AP)—Tuskegee institute reported today that four persons, all Negroes, were lynched in 1941 and in 19 other instances officers of the law prevented lynchings.

The report, released by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the Negro school, said the lynchings compared with five in 1940 and three in 1939. The institute's department of records and research reported six lynchings in 1938 and eight in 1937.

One of the instances in which mob action was balked occurred in the North and the remainder in the South. As a result, the lives of one white man and 20 Negroes were saved, the report said.

The four lynchings were in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, the department reported. The victims were accused, respectively, of attempted assault, stealing, fighting with a white man, and working on a job from which white men had been discharged, the report added. One was removed from jail by the killers.

Dr. Patterson summarized the details as follows:

(1) February 15, 1941, Andrews (Georgetown county) South Carolina; Bruce Tisdale, Negro; charge: working on a job from which white men had been discharged; died of head wounds.

(2) April 13, 1941, Gaston county (near Cherryville) North Carolina; Robert Meyker, Negro; charge: altercation with white men; shot to death in his home.

(3) May 6, 1941, Blakely, (Early county) Georgia; Robert Sapp, Negro; charge: suspected of stealing from his employer; flogged with a club and a piece of machine belting.

(4) May 13, 1941, Quincy, (Gadsden county) Florida; A. C. Williams, Negro; charge: attempted assault upon a 12-year-old white girl; beaten and body riddled with bullets.

Chattahoochee, Fla. Tribune
January 2, 1942

Tuskegee Report Shows Four Lynched in 1941

Four persons, all negroes, were lynched in the United States during 1941, according to an annual report prepared by the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute and released this week. The year's total was a decrease of one from five lynchings recorded in 1940.

Lynchings were recorded in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Collinsville, Ala., New Era
January 9, 1942

4 Persons Lynched During Past Year

Four persons, all negroes, were lynched in the United States during 1941, according to records released from Tuskegee Institute.

The report says: The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with a white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged, 1.

Each of the following states had one lynching, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Lumpkin, Ga., Stewart-Webster Jnl
January 1, 1942

FOUR LYNCHINGS IN SOUTHERN STATES DURING LAST YEAR

Tuskegee Institute reports four persons lynched in 1941—all negroes. This was one less than for 1940. There were 19 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings.

The offenses charged were: Attempted rape 1, suspected of stealing 1, altercation with white man working on job from which whites had been discharged 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida 1, Georgia 1, North Carolina 1, South Carolina 1.

Sandersville, Ga., Progress
January 1, 1942

Lynchings Recorded in 1941

According to reports compiled in the Department fo Records and Research at Tuskegee, Ala., there were four persons lynched in 1941. This is one less than the number five for the year 1940, one more than the number three for the year 1939, two less than the number six for the year 1938, and four less than the number eight for the year 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail.

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used. A total number of 21 persons—one white man and 20 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, one; suspected of stealing, one; altercation with white man, one; working on job from which whites had been discharged, one.

The state in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, one; Georgia, one; North Carolina, one; South Carolina, one.

Columbia Tenn. Daily Herald
January 1, 1942

4 LYNCHINGS ARE REPORTED DURING YEAR

ONE NEGRO KILLED IN NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA, FLORIDA, GEORGIA.

(By United Press.)

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Jan. 1.—Only four persons were lynched in the United States during 1941, according to reports compiled by the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, F. D. Patterson, president, announced today.

The total is one less than for 1940, and one more than occurred in 1939. Six persons were lynched in 1938 and eight in 1937, Patterson said, in pointing out the decline.

All persons lynched were negroes, the reports show, one in Florida, one in Georgia, one in North Carolina and one in South Carolina.

No two of the victims faced the same charge. One was accused of attempted rape, one with suspected stealing, one with working on job from which whites had been discharged, and one following an altercation with a white man.

Nineteen instances were reported in which officers prevented lynchings, 18 of which were in Southern states, in which the persons were removed, guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used, the report says. A total of 21 persons, including one white man, were saved by police action.

Montgomery, Ala. Journal
December 31, 1941

Four Lynchings During 1941

Mob Action Halted In 19 States

TUSKEGEE, Dec. 31.—(AP)—Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research reported today that four persons, all negroes, were lynched during 1941 and there were 19 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings.

The report, announced by Dr. F. D. Patterson, institute president, said the lynchings were one less than the five in 1940 and one more than those reported during the previous year.

One of the instances in which mob action was halted by officers occurred in the north and the other 18 in southern states, the department said, adding that as a result, the lives of one white man and 20 negroes were saved.

The four lynchings were divided evenly between Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina with the offenses charged being one case each of attempted criminal attack, suspected of stealing, altercation with a white man and working on a job from which whites had been discharged, the report said.

The department found six persons were lynched in 1938 and eight in 1937. One of those lynched this year was removed from jail, it said.

Gainesville, Fla. Sun
December 31, 1941

FOUR LYNCHINGS REPORTED IN '41

TUESKEGEE, Ala. (AP)— Tuskegee Institute reported today that four persons, all negroes, were lynched in 1941 and in 19 other instances officers of the law prevented lynchings.

The report, released by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the negro school, said the lynchings compared with five in 1940 and three in 1939. The institute's department of records and research reported six lynchings in 1938 and eight in 1937.

The four lynchings were in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, the department reported.

Wadesboro, N. C. Herald
December 31, 1941

4 Lynchings During 1941

Tuskegee Institute Report Lists One Negro Shot to Death in Gaston County.

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 31.—(AP)—Tuskegee Institute reported today that four persons, all Negroes, were lynched in 1941 and in 19 other instances officers of the law prevented lynchings.

The report, released by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the Negro school, said the lynchings compared with five in 1940 and three in 1939.

The four lynchings were in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, the institute reported. The victims were accused respectively of attempted rape, stealing, fighting with a white man and working on a job from which whites had been discharged, the report added.

Dr. Patterson summarized the details of the alleged North Carolina lynching as follows:

April 13, 1941: Gaston county (near Cherryville), N. C., Robert Melker, Negro; charge, altercation with white men; shot to death in his home.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
January 2, 1942

Four Lynchings Occurred in '41

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Jan. 1.—(U.P.)—Four lynchings occurred in the United States in 1941, all Negroes and all in southern states, the Tuskegee Institute of Records and Research reported today.

President F. D. Patterson said Georgia, Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina were the scenes of the slayings.

There were 19 attempted lynchings which were prevented by law officers, Patterson said.

Barnwell, S. C., People
January 1, 1942

1941 Lynching Record.

Four persons, all negroes, were lynched in 1941, according to the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute. This is one less than in 1940, one more than in 1939, two less than in 1938 and four less than in 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from a jail. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged, 1. The lynchings occurred in Florida, Georiga, North Carolina and South Carolina.

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings—one in the North and 18 in the South. Twenty-one persons, one white and 20 negroes, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Leland, Miss. Enterprise
December 26, 1941

Four Lynchings In The US During 1941

There were four persons lynched in the United States, all negroes, according to the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute. The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida one, Georgia one, North Carolina one, South Carolina one.

Mobile, Ala. Register
January 2, 1942

Four Lynchings In U. S. Occurred During 1941

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Jan. 1.—(UP)—Four lynchings occurred in the United States in 1941, all negroes and all in Southern states, the Tuskegee Institute of Records and Research reported today.

President F. D. Patterson said Georgia, Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina were the scenes of the slayings.

There were 19 attempted lynchings which were prevented by law officers, Patterson said.

37n2 1941

6639

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

One Lynching Is Too Many

JAN 6 - 1942

While the report made annually by the Department of Records at Tuskegee Institute discloses that the lynching record for the country reached a new low, the three lynchings recorded were entirely unnecessary. There is no way that such a record as that can seree civilization. One lynching will serve the ugly impression that certain minority groups are not free from lynching.

The function of lynching and its wild franchise will hang over us as long as one person is lynched.

Many things will enter into the fall off of lynching. The tact exercised by those who are subjected to be lynched and the wholesale surrender of manhood rights all enter into the way in which peace has been preserved. On the other hand horsewhipping and the many unpublished things done are not recorded.

The American people have traveled a long way down the road of self respect and law observance. The swiftness of justice and the fair function of the courts all have contributed ot better living conditions.

JAN 6 - 1942

It is highly noticeable that the lynchings recorded at Tuskegee are all confined to the South. In that it occurs that our humanitarian lessons should be emphasized in that area. When the South has been lifted above the ugly evil, it appears that the whole practice will pass away.

We are living in a curious age. This report will do our country and our common cause no good in the trying days of this nation.

Those who participated in these lynchings are enemies to this country and our form of government. They are aliens to our common cause and are thrown strictly on the side of other enemies who are carrying on in the old world and even in our islands lynching on a high scale — the wholesale slaughter of women and children.

JAN 6 - 1942

As long as we have a fifth column here at home, hidden under the cover of the mask and never run to cover by law enforcement authorities the whole of our democratic procedure is gravely in peril.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Carolinas Resent Tuskegee Institute 1941 Lynch Report

JAN 16 1942

JAN 16

Editorials in Both North And South Carolina Object To Inclusion as Lynchers

RALEIGH, N. C.—(ANP)—Both North and South Carolina have voiced objections to the annual total of lynching statistics released by Tuskegee Institute which show a lynching was committed in each state during 1941.

When the report for the first half of th year was made public last July, North Carolina protested against including a mobbing in Gaston County in the statistics but to no avail. Following the final finding revealed several days ago, the Raleigh News and Observer voiced the attitude of the state when it said editorially Friday morning:

JAN 16 1942

"The News and Observer has no positive information concerning what occurred in the other three states, but the News and Observer does know that the inclusion of North Carolina as a gross inaccuracy as to throw a question mark upon all the figures compiled on the subject. Unless such statistics are accurate they are obviously valueless."

In South Carolina the State, published in Columbia, said in an editorial Friday that it had checked with Tuskegee and an investigation by the newspaper "showed the tragedy was in no sense a lynching."

JAN 16 1942

"The State feels that Tuskegee," the editorial continued, "fathered by Booker Washington, and always a leader in the advancement of the Negro, and in good feeling between the races, should correct its report. There is certainly no evidence in Georgetown, where the lynching was reported to have occurred, to substantiate the Tuskegee findings."

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

FOUR LYNCHINGS IN 1941 ARE REPORTED

JAN 1 - 1942

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31—Four lynchings were reported for 1941 by the Tuskegee Institute department of records and research, Institute President F. D. Patterson announced.

Other related findings reported by the department and announced by President Patterson were:

The 1941 figure compares with five for 1940, three for 1939, six for 1938 and eight for 1937.

One person lynched in 1940 was taken from a jail.

There were 19 instances reported in which officers prevented lynchings, one in a Northern state and 18 in the South.

Those lynched were Negroes, and charges against them were attempted criminal assault, one; suspected theft, one; altercation with white man, one, and working on job from which white persons had been discharged, one.

JAN 1 - 1942

One lynching occured in each of four states, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

LYNCHINGS ARE FEWER IN 1941 THAN IN 1940

JAN 1 - 1942

Four Negroes Die During Year At Hands Of Mobs

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31.—(AP)—Tuskeegee Institute's Department of Records and Research reported Monday that four persons, all negroes, were lynched during 1941 and there were 19 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings.

The report announced by Dr. F. D. Patterson, institute president, said the lynchings were one less than the five in 1940 and one more than those reported during the previous year.

JAN 1 - 1942

One of the instances in which mob action was halted by officers occurred in the North and the other 18 in Southern states, the department said, adding that as a result, the lives of one white man and 20 negroes were saved.

The four lynchings were divided evenly between Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina with the offenses charged being one case each of attempted rape, suspected of stealing, altercation with a white man and working on a job from which white had been discharged, the report said.

The department found six persons were lynched in 1938 and eight in 1937. One of those lynched this year was removed from a jaid, it said.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

Tuskegee Finds There Were Only 4 Lynchings In '41

JAN 2 - 1942

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Jan. 1 (ANP)—Reports compiled by the department of records and research reveal that there were four persons lynched in 1941, according to Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee institute. This number is one less than in 1940; one more than in 1939; two less than in 1938; and four less than in 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from jail.

The record further shows that there were 19 reported instances in which officers of the law prevented lynching. One of the instances was in a northern state and 18 in southern states. In 18 instances, persons upon whom lynch attempts were made were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. Armed force was used in one case. One white man and 20 Negro men were saved from the hands of mobs in 1941.

All four persons lynched in 1941 were Negroes, who were charged with attempted rape, suspected of stealing, altercation with a white man, and working on job which whites had been discharged. Each lynching occurred in a different state—Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

4 Lynchings Reported By Tuskegee Head

JAN 3 - 1942

Mobs Thwarted In 19 Cases; Figure 1 Less Than 1940

JAN 3 - 1942

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—Four persons were lynched during the year 1941, according to the figures released from the Tuskegee Institute Department of Records and Research by the college's president, Dr. F. D. Patterson, this week.

The Tuskegee lynching statistics show that there were 19 cases in which officers of the law prevented lynchings during the year and that in one case armed force was used in resisting a lynching mob. JAN 3 - 1942

The 1941 figure is smaller than in any year since 1937 except the year 1939, when the all time low of three lynchings was recorded. The figure was one less than the number in 1940; two less than the number six for 1938; and four less than the number eight for 1937.

18 SAVED IN SOUTH

One of the persons lynched was taken from jail. Of the nineteen lynchings prevented, 18 occurred in Southern states and one in the North. A total number of 21 persons—one white, and 20 Negro men—were saved from the hands of mobs. All of the persons lynched were Negroes.

One lynching occurred in each of the following states: Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, suspicion of stealing, altercation with a white man, and working on a job from which whites had been discharged.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

FOUR LYNCHINGS IN 1941

JAN 1 - 1942

Tuskegee Institute Reports That 19 Others Were Prevented

TUSKAGEE, Ala., Dec. 31 (AP)—Tuskagee Institute reported today that four persons, all Negroes, were lynched in 1941 and in nineteen other instances officers of the law prevented lynchings.

The report, released by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the school, said the lynchings compared with five in 1940 and three in 1939. The Institute's department of records and research reported six lynchings in 1938 and eight in 1937.

37 n9

One of the instances in which mob action was balked occurred in the North. The lives of one white man and twenty Negroes were saved, the report said.

The four lynchings reported were in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. One was removed from jail by the killers. JAN 1 - 1942

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

LYNCHING TOLL CUT TO 4 IN 1941, SAYS TUSKEGEE

JAN 1 - 1942

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 31 (AP).—Tuskegee institute reported today that four persons, all Negroes, were lynched in 1941 and in 19 other instances officers of the law prevented lynchings.

The report, released by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the Negro school, said the lynchings compared with five in 1940, three in 1939, six in 1938, and eight in 1937.

37 n3

One of the instances in which mob action was balked occurred in the north and the remainder in the south. As a result, the lives of one white man and 20 Negroes were saved, the report said. The four lynchings were in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. JAN 1 - 1942

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Two Carolinas Smarting Under Lynch Stigma

JAN 8 - 1942

Ask Tuskegee To "Correct" Its '41 Report

37 n2

RALEIGH, N. C. (ANP) —Both North and South Carolina have voiced objections to the annual total lynching statistics released by Tuskegee institute which show a lynching was committed in each state during 1941.

JAN 8 - 1942

When the report for the first half of the year was made public last July, North Carolina protested against a mobbing in Gaston county in the statistics but to no avail. Following the final finding revealed several days ago, the Raleigh News and Observer, voiced the attitude of the state when it said editorially Friday morning:

"The News and Observer has no position concerning what occurred in the other three states, but the News and Observer does know that the inclusion of North Carolina was a gross inaccuracy, such a gross inaccuracy as to throw a question mark upon all the figures compiled on the subject. Unless such statistics are accurate they are obviously valueless."

In South Carolina the State, published in Columbia, said in an editorial Friday that it had checked with Tuskegee and an investigation by the newspaper "showed the tragedy was in on sense a lynching." JAN 8 - 1942

"The State feels that Tuskegee," the editorial continued, "fathered by Booker Washington and always a leader in the advancement of the Negro and in good feeling between th races, should correct its report. There is certainly no evidence in Georgetown, where the lynching was reported to have occurred, to substantiate the Tuskegee findings."

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

Four Lynchings

During 1941, according to Tuskegee Institute records, four persons were lynched in the United States. All victims were Negroes. All lynchings occurred in the South. Georgia, Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina each had one. The causes listed for the lynchings were typical of all lynching excuses. 37 n2

We are, of course, very glad that none of the four tragedies took place in Alabama. We are, though, very regretful that the South is the region in which the only lynchings occurred.

Much, very much, has been done to impress on all persons the absolute necessity of meting out justice through due process of law. This is evident from the gradual reduction in the number of lynchings. There was one less in 1941 than in 1940. JAN 3 - 1942

But much remains to be done. It is not only that we must continue to reduce the number of lynchings until there are none, we must, further, achieve the state of mind, all of us, when even the thought, let alone the practice, of ignoring our established laws and moral codes and taking the law into our own hands is abhorrent.

Kinston, N. C., Free Press
January 1, 1942

[illegible] the statistics compiled annually by the Negro institution at Tuskegee, Alabama, North Carolina is charged with one lynching for 1941. Quite a good deal of comment was made when the six months release of figures was given last July and the papers and others in North Carolina didn't agree with the Tuskegee statisticians that a lynching had occurred. There was a killing but it was not in the view of many people, who considered the facts, correctly listed in the lynching column. At any rate it was an unlawful killing and that was bad enough.

37n2-1941

6640

Columbus Ga. Ledger
December 31, 1941

Four Lynchings Are Reported During 1941

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31.—(AP)—Tuskegee institute's department of records and research reported today that four persons, all negroes, were lynched during 1941 and there were 19 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings.

The report, announced by Dr. F. D. Patterson, institute president, said the lynchings were one less than the five in 1940 and one more than reported during the previous year.

One of the instances in which mob action was halted by officers occurred in the north and the other 18 in southern states, the department said, adding that as a result, the lives of one white man and 20 negroes were saved.

The four lynchings were divided evenly between Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, with the offenses charged being one case each of attempted criminal assault, suspected of stealing, altercation with a white man and working on a job which whites had been discharged, the report said.

The department found six persons were lynched in 1938 and eight in 1937. One of those lynched this year was removed from a jail, it said.

Dr. Patterson summarized the details as follows:

(1) February 15, 1941, Andrews, (Georgetown county) South Carolina; Bruce Tisdale, negro; charge: working on a job from which whites had been discharged; died of head wounds.

(2) April 13, 1941, Gaston county (near Cherryville) North Carolina; Robert Melker, negro; charge: altercation with white men; shot to death in his home.

(3) May 6, 1941, Blakely, (Early county) Georgia; Robert Sapp, negro; charge: suspected of stealing from his employer; flogged with a club and a piece of machine belting.

(4) May 13, 1941, Quincy, (Gadsden county) Florida; A. C. Williams, negro; charge: attempted criminal assault upon a 12-year-old white girl; beaten and body riddled with bullets.

—REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR—

Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journal
December 31, 1941

Albany, Ga. Herald
December 31, 1941

Four Lynchings During Year 1941 Are Recorded

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31 (AP).—Tuskegee Institute's Department of Records and Research reported today that four persons, all Negroes, were lunched during 1941 and there were 19 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings.

The report, announced by Dr. F. D. Patterson, Institute president, said the lynchings were one less than the five in 1940 and one more than those reported during the previous year.

One of the instances in which mob action as halted by officers occurred in the North and the other 18 in Southern states, the department said, adding that as a result, the lives of one white man and 20 Negroes were saved.

The four lynchings were divided evenly among Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, with the offenses charged being one case each of attempted rape, suspected of stealing, altercation with a white man, and working on a job from which whites had been discharged, the report said.

The department found that six persons were lunched in 1938 and eight in 1937. One of those lynched this year was removed from a jail, it said.

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(2) April 13, 1941, Gaston county (near Cherryville) North Carolina; Robert Melker, Negro; charge: altercation with white men; shot to death in his home.

(3) May 6, 1941, Blakely, (Early county) Georgia; Robert Sapp, Negro; charge: suspected of stealing from his employer; flogged with a club and a piece of machine belting.

(4) May 13, 1941, Quincy, (Gadsden county) Florida; A. C. Williams, Negro; charge: attempted rape upon a 12-year-old white girl; beaten and body riddled with bullets.

Spartanburg, S. C. Journal
December 31, 1941

Savannah, Ga., Press
December 31, 1941

TUSKEGEE RECORDS SHOW 4 LYNCHINGS

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS PREVENTED DEATHS OF 19

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31 (AP).—Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research reported today that four persons, all negroes, were lynched during 1941 and there were 19 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings.

The report, announced by Dr. F. D. Patterson, institute president, said the lynchings were one less than the five in 1940 and one more than those reported during the previous year.

One of the instances in which mob action was halted by officers occurred in the north and the other 18 in Southern states, the department said, adding that as a result, the lives of one white man and 20 negroes were saved.

The four lynchings were divided evenly between Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina with the offenses charged being one case each of attempted rape, suspected of stealing, altercation with a white man and working on a job from which whites had been discharged, the report said.

The department found six persons were lynched in 1938 and eight in 1937. One of those lynched this year was removed from a jail, it said.

Dr. Patterson summarized the details as follows:

(1) February 15, 1941, Andrews (Georgetown county), South Carolina; Bruce Tisdale, negro; charge: working on a job from which whites had been discharged; died of head wounds.

(2) April 13, 1941, Gaston county (near Cherryville) North Carolina; Robert Melker, negro; charge: Altercation with white men; shot to death in his home.

(3) May 6, 1941, Blakely (Early county) Georgia; Robert Sapp, negro; charge: Suspected of stealing from his employer; flogged with a club and a piece of machine belting.

(4) May 13, 1941, Quincy (Gadsden county), Florida; A. C. Williams, negro; charge: Attempted attack upon a 12-year-old girl; beaten and body riddled with bullets.

Winston Salem N C Sentinel
December 31, 1941

Sumter, S. C., Daily Item
December 31, 1941

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
December 31, 1941

Huntsville, Ala., Times
December 31, 1941

Wilmington N C News
December 31, 1941

Portsmouth, Va. Star
March 1, 1942

Four Persons Lynched In '41

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Feb. 19—(AP)—Tuskegee Institute reported that four persons, all negroes, were lynched in 1941 and in 19 other instanles officers of the law prevented lynchings.

The report, released by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the negro school, said the lynchings compared with five in 1940 and three in 1939. The institute's department of records and research reported six lynchings in 1938 and eight in 1937.

One of the instances in which mob action was balked occurred in the north and the remainder in the south. As a result, the lives of one white man and 20 negroes were saved, the report said.

The four lynchings were in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, the department reported.

Asheville N C Times
December 31, 1941

Birmingham Ala News
December 31, 1941

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
January 1, 1942

37n2-1941

6641

Tifton, Ga. Gazette
December 31, 1941

FOUR LYNCHINGS IN 1942

Tuskegee, Ala., — According to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, at Tuskegee Institute, there were four persons lynched in 1941. This is one less than the number, five for year 1940, one more than the number, three for the year 1939; two less than the number, six, for the year 1938; and four less than the number, 8, for the year 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail.

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used. A total number of 21 persons—one white man and 20 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; suspected stealing, 1; altercation with white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; North Carolina, 1; South Carolina, 1.

Rock Hill, S. C. Herald
December 31, 1941

FOUR LYNCHINGS REPORTED IN '41

One Less Than For Previous Year Says Head Of Tuskegee

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., Dec. 31.—President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute announced today that:

"According to the reports compiled in the department of records and research, there were four persons lynched in 1941. This is one less than the number five for the year 1940, one more than the number three for the year 1939, two less than the number six for the year 1938 and four less than the number eight for the year 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail.

"There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used. A total number of 21 persons—one white man and 20 negro men — were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

"All persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, one; suspected of stealing, one; altercation with white man one; working on job from which whites had been discharged, one.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, one; Georgia, one; North Carolina, one; South Carolina, one."

Macon Ga. News
December 31, 1941

Four U. S. Negroes Lynched in 1941, Tuskegee Reports

TUSKEGEE, Ala., [AP]—Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research reported Wednesday that four persons, all Negroes, were lynched during 1941 and there were 19 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings.

The report, announced by Dr. F. D. Patterson, institute president, said the lynchings were one less than the five in 1940 and one more than those reported during the previous year.

One of the instances in which mob action was halted by officers occurred in the North and the other 18 in Southern states, the department said adding that as a result, the lives of one white man and 20 Negroes were saved.

The four lynchings were divided evenly between Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina with the offenses charged being one case each of attempted rape, suspected of stealing, altercation with a white man and working on a job from which whites had been discharged, the report said. The Georgia case was in Early county, at Blakely, of a Negro suspected of stealing from his employer.

Key West, Fla., Citizen
January 1, 1942

Gadsden, Ala., Times
December 31, 1941

Thomasville, Ga. Times Enterprise
December 31, 1941

Gulfport, Miss. Herald
December 31, 1941

Roanoke, Va., World News
January 1, 1942

Augusta, Ga. Herald
December 31, 1941

Jackson, Miss., News
December 31, 1941

Selma, Ala., Times Journal
December 31, 1941

Suffolk, Va., News-Herald
December 31, 1941

St. Matthews, S. C., Times
January 1, 1942

Covington, La., Farmer
January 2, 1942

Thibodaux, La. Lafourche Comet
January 8, 1942

Ozark, Ala., Star
January 8, 1942

Wewahitchka, Fla., Breeze
January 2, 1942

Tuskegee Institute Totals Lynchings For Year 1942

In an annual communique the president of Tuskegee Institute, F. D. Patterson totaled up the number of Lynchings in the south for the year 1941 just closed. He states:

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total number of 21 persons—1 white man and 20 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; South Carolina, 1.

Pathfinder
Washington, D. C.

NATIONAL

There were five lynchings in 1940, compared with three in 1939: two in Alabama, two in Georgia and one in Tennessee . . . • More than 52 million workers were covered by Social Security accounts at the year's end . . . • A total of $70,200,000,000 tax-exempt securities were outstanding in June, Treasury reports. Almost 55 billion dollars worth was held by the public.

JAN 11 1941

The Lincoln Cathedral copy of the Magna Charta, considered the foundation of our Bill of Rights, has been deposited in Library of Congress by Great Britain, for safekeeping until end of war. The Great Charter, signed by King John at the demand of British barons on June 19, 1215, had been on exhibit at the World's Fair, N. Y. R. N. Butler, Charge d'Affaires of the British Embassy, handed the historic document over to Librarian of Congress Archibald McLeish. The Magna Charta was left at the Library once before, between the 1939 and 1940 seasons of the Fair.

JAN 11 1941

Reaching the half-way mark in the current fiscal year, Treasury reports that Federal expenditures were $5,005,471,942, or $382,633,079 greater than first six months of last year. The Federal deficit for the half year was $2,117,464,618 . . . • Government corporations have repaid to the Treasury $210,389,100 of the $700,000,000 they will repay this year. Biggest amount yet paid in was $100,000,000 from the Federal Land Banks.

Columbia S. C. State
January 2, 1942

AS TO LYNCHINGS.

There has, from its very beginning, been no stouter denouncer of lynchings than The State. And so this newspaper looked with pride on the record year after year of none in South Carolina. It was shocked, therefore, when it received from the president of Tuskegee a report showing this state charged with one in 1941. No such incident could be recalled so Tuskegee was asked for a report. The answer came, and, as chronicled on The State's first page yesterday, an investigation by this newspaper showed the tragedy was in no sense a lynching. A death as the result of a fight—be he white or black—is not a lynching, and the color of the man killed does not change the classification.

The State feels that Tuskegee, fathered by Booker Washington, and always a leader in the advancement of the Negro, and in good feeling between the races, should correct its report. There is certainly no evidence in Georgetown, where the lynching was reported to have occurred, to substantiate the Tuskegee findings.

The State is as jealous of South Carolina's good name as it is of the rights of human beings. In both, the only record worthwhile is a correct record.

Macon Ga. Telegraph
December 8, 1941

Folly of Mob Violence

Eddie Lee Spivey, Dodge county Negro, charged with criminal assault, first talked a mob out of lynching him and then, by his unsworn statement before the trial jury, was largely instrumental in winning a verdict of acquittal.

The defendant astonished his hearers with his 50-minute speech, described as "brilliant," which we like to interpret as the convincing power of the truth, but an outstanding lesson is the criminal folly of mob violence which, by the record, would have sent an innocent man to his death.

Finally, it is quite obvious that Negroes on a jury are not necessary for a Negro to get justice in a Georgia court.

Fewer Lynchings

Hope for this nation's future is indicated by the interest of most Americans in preventing atrocities and outrages by their own countrymen as well as in punishing those perpetrated from abroad. For last year only four lynchings were recorded, the black marks going to the two Carolinas, Florida and Georgia. While this is four more than should have been allowed and fails to duplicate the low point of three lynchings, reached in 1939, it is a slight improvement over 1940, which had five, and shows great progress from the bad lynching record of the early thirties.

Dall. Morning

Encouragement is found also in the report of President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee that nineteen officers of the law prevented lynchings last year. This shows a vast improvement over the attitude of many such officers in the past, who have connived at lynchings or made only feeble efforts to prevent them. Undoubtedly many in the South have been stirred by the antilynching pleas of Dixie women, in whose defense many lynchings are perpetrated, and by the threat of federal antilynching legislation. If the states can fully eradicate lynching by their own efforts, there will be no occasion for a federal law in this field.

Tampa, Fla., Tribune
January 4, 1942

The Lynching Record

There is double significance in the annual report of lynchings released by President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute, the famous negro school of higher learning.

First, the report shows that only four persons were lynched in 1941. This is one less than in 1940, one more than the number during 1939, two less than 1938 and four less than 1937. All persons lynched in 1941 were negroes and the crimes were committed in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Equally outstanding to the decrease in the number of lynchings is the report that in 19 instances officers of the law prevented what certainly would have been fatal attacks. These officers cooperated by removing suspects to another community or calling for additional protection. In all, 21 persons, one white man and 20 negroes, were thus saved from the hands of mobs during the year.

We hail these instances as proof that law and order is slowly but surely winning over mob rule. Let us not be satisfied, however, with slight improvement. As citizens of a liberty-loving nation we must not rest until the horrible crime of lynching is eliminated completely and eternally

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
January 2, 1942

Our Lynching Record

The South's lynching record has always been a shameful one despite the fact that some progress is being made in the complete eradication of this uncivilized method of dispensing "justice." But improvements, be they ever so light, should be recorded.

In his annual report, F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, says that there were four lynchings during 1941, one each occurring in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. This number is one less than 1940, one more than 1939, two less than 1938 and four less than 1937. Only one of the persons lynched was taken from a jail.

The most significant part of President Patterson's report, however, deals with the number of lynchings which were prevented by officers of the law. He records that there were 19 instances in which officers, by prompt action, prevented lynchings, and that 18 of these cases were in the South. Thus the anti-lynching bill crowd in Congress can see that all the South is not lawless and that much of it is making a determined effort to stop lynchings without interference from Federal authorities.

The Birmingham News

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Getting Sensitive

The South has gotten to the point where communities protest against a charge that a lynching occurred there. The report by Tuskegee Institute on 1941 lynchings listed four such crimes in the South. Protests are now being raised against that figure by two communities which insist that the homicides in question there did not fall within the definition of lynching.

Birmingham

In South Carolina, *The Columbia State*, *The Greenville News* and *The Charleston News and Courier* have all insisted that a slaying of a Negro in Georgetown County was not a lynching but a homicide that followed a quarrel between five white men and a Negro over a labor question. The sheriff of that county takes the same position.

In North Carolina, another Negro was slain in Gaston County as a result of what *The Raleigh News and Observer* after investigation calls a "private quarrel" between some white men and a Negro. Each of the white men involved, that paper points out, is now serving a long prison term.

Whether these homicides constitute a lynching is a matter of definition. Tuskegee Institute has gone to considerable effort to arrive at a fair definition of the word and to investigate each incident. It has been accused by some groups, notably the Association for the Advancement of Colored People, of not being inclusive enough in its definition and application. And now comes criticism that the definition takes in too much ground.

It is a wholesome sign when states and communities manifest a quickened conscience in regard to lynchings. These protests from the Carolinas are acknowledgment that a lynching brings upon a community a degree of obloquy and disrepute that is intolerable. A lynching has always been a disgrace, of course, but Southern communities are now getting more sensitive about such a crime.

In that changing attitude there is further evidence that lynching is on the way out.

[illegible]burg, N. C. Herald
December 27, 1941

Lynchings Last Year

The annual report on lynchings issued by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, shows that four persons were lynched in the United States during 1941. Florida, South Carolina, Georgia and North Carolina were the contributing states. Last year five lynchings took place against three for the year 1939, six for 1938, and eight in 1937.

All the persons lynched in 1941 were Negroes and the offenses charged were: Attempted rape; altercation with a white man; suspected stealing, and working on a job from which white men had been discharged. In no case, with one exception, did the offense call for serious punishment at the hands of the courts. All were cases of mob murder and all South Carolinians will feel humiliation to know that one of these mobs committed murder in their state.

The Institute, however, issued the following encouraging statement:

"There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used. A total number of 21 persons—one white man and 20 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs."

At least it is gratifying to know that in 18 instances officers of the law in southern states resisted efforts of mobs to take the law into their hands and that of the four lynchings reported only one victim was taken from jail. The showing for 1941 was good compared to that of many former years, but the lawabiding people of the South will not be satisfied until lynching is a thing of the past in their part of the country.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
January 2, 1942

LYNCHINGS IN 1941

More gratifying than the fact that only four lynchings occurred in 1941 is the showing that in nineteen instances in which officers of the law prevented mob violence, eighteen of them were in Southern States. According to Tuskegee Institute's Department of Records and Research, the four lynchings occurred in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Florida. The total was one less than in the previous year, but one more than in 1939.

In the past three years, twelve persons, mostly Negroes, have died in this country as a result of mob violence. Scarcely more than a decade ago the toll in any one year was larger. Each year, there is a growing number of instances in which prompt action by law enforcement officers protects those who might otherwise be murdered. In 1941, the lives of one white man and twenty Negroes were saved by law officers and citizens who insisted that the law take its course.

That is a fine record. It is a tribute to the work of many individuals and organizations, particularly that of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. Unhappily, there will probably be other cases of mob violence. But there is a growing realization throughout the South that along with the hapless person whose life is taken by a mob the law itself is lynched.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
January 5, 1942

The Original Judge Lynch

It is reported by the Tuskegee Institute, famous Negro institution, that there were four lynchings in the South during 1941. The report shows also that there were 19 instances in which lynchings were prevented.

This is a remarkable tribute to the success of the war that has been waged by the South upon lawlessness and it would be interesting to know how this section compares to the North, East and West in the matter of lynchings.

Unfortunately, nobody takes the trouble to keep a record of lynchings in the North, East or West, where they are much more frequent than in the South. This is due to a very general misunderstanding of what the term "lynching" means.

The general idea seems to be that lynching is something that happens almost exclusively in the South and that it involves the taking of human life by unlawful means.

This is not all that it means, as every educated person is aware.

Lynchings describe the acts of private citizens who take the law into their own hands and inflict punishment "without due process of law." When mobs beat up an individual that is a lynching, and were the record kept in accurate form it is probable that Detroit would, over a period of years, lead the whole country in such acts of violence. The auto troubles there a few years ago produced more lynchings than occur in the South in ten years.

The origin of the term "Lynch Law" is interesting and suggestive. Known originally as "Lynch's law," the term arose out of the practices of Charles Lynch, a Justice of the Peace and Virginia patriot, who resorted to extralegal methods of heaping punishment upon Tories who sought to obstruct the processes of freedom. His work in this connection was so highly appreciated by the patriots of Virginia that the Assembly of 1782 passed an Act indemnifying him for his services.

Thus lynch law had its origin in extralegal processes inspired by patriotic motives. How the term ever came to relate almost exclusively to extralegal executions in the South is not clear. It probably was a part of the effort made during the reconstruction era to smear the South as much as possible. The term was warped to mean a crime committed by a mob in the South but not applying to a crime committed by a mob in the North, East or West, though there is not and never has been any such distinction in point of fact. Every act of mob violence, whether the victim is beaten or slain, is a lynching, regardless of where it occurs.

It is important to know these things because a peculiar stigma has been caused to become attached to mob violence in the South while no such stigma attaches to similar crimes committed elsewhere in the nation. Let it be remembered that a lynching occurs every time a mob inflicts punishment upon an individual without due process of law and let it be known also that nowhere are efforts to suppress such lawlessness more pronounced or more successful than in the South.

REPORT RENDERED VALUELESS.

Both the Greenville News and The News and Courier have gone along with The State in protesting the Tuskegee report which listed a Georgetown homicide as a lynching.

North Carolina, it is understood, is asserting also that there was no lynching in that state last year.

The News and Courier is quite right when it says that unless the Tuskegee report, long considered akin to "official" but which has had several dubious cases in its findings in previous years, is more careful, the institute's data will be worthless.

Athens, Ga., Banner-Herald
January 4, 1942

DECREASE IN LYNCHINGS

According to statistics compiled by the department of records and research at Tuskegee Institute, there were four persons lynched during last year which was one less than in 1940. One more than was recorded in 1939, two less than for the year 1938, and four less than those reported in 1937.

The report goes on to show that there were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in southern states.

The four lynchings that occurred were all negroes, and the offense for which they were charged were criminal assault, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged, 1. The states in which these lynchings are recorded are, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

It is encouraging to learn of the reduction in the number of lynchings. However, it is to be regretted that any at all occurred in the South, especially in that the cause for the lynchings was attributed to other causes than that of rape. Mob spirit and violence should be discouraged in all walks of life. Riotous gatherings as has been seen in this state should never be permitted. Such instances in taking the law into their own hands is a forerunner of mob spirit which leads to lynchings and other acts of violence.

Gastonia, N. C., Gazette
January 2, 1942

NORTH CAROLINA HAD NO LYNCHING IN 1941

(The Charlotte News)

Generally accepted as the official lynching figures are those compiled by Tuskegee Institute. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People likewise keeps lynching records, but they are subject to some discount for the reason that the organization's crusading zeal sometimes runs away with its judgment.

At any rate, Tuskegee's 1941 report, just issued, lists four lynchings for the year.

It was in Gaston county last April that there took place the crime which now goes down in the books as a lynching to North Carolina's discredit. A full report was made by this newspaper. Four white men in their twenties decided to celebrate Easter with a spree. About dusk they were riding along, drunk and looking for trouble, when they met a young Negro couple, bride and bridegroom of a week. They shouted obscenities, and when the Negro man resented their behavior, a rock-fight took place, with no casualties. They chased the Negro couple to their family home where they were met by the man's mother, who ordered them off her premises (as she had a right to do) and fired at them with a shotgun.

After darkness they returned with guns, and when the young Negro bridegroom stepped out of the dwelling with his own gun, they shot him eight or nine times.

It was a brutal crime, and perhaps the four white men deserved more than the sentences, ranging from fourteen to twenty-five years, that they got. Murder it was, however—wanton, bestial murder; and not lynching. Tuskegee to the contrary notwithstanding, North Carolina had no lynching in 1941. The country at large had but three.

Texas Slate Is Clean

AS 1941 approaches its end, Texas has one more thing it may well be proud of. The State had an absolutely clean slate in respect to lynching during the past year.

This is one form of crime that has been on its way out for several years in Texas. We have advanced in respect for law and order to the point where attempts by mobs to take the law into their own hands have about ceased.

The lynching evil is happily on the decline throughout the country. Statistics compiled by Tuskegee institute in Alabama and made public by President F. D. Patterson of that school show that only four States had their escutcheons stained by lynching records in 1941.

Those States were North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Georgia. Each of those States recorded one lynching. Each of those States is in the old Southeast, where the negro population is heavy, and where relations between the white and negro races have not advanced along the road to mutual respect and cooperation as in some other States in the South.

Houston, Texas Post
DEC 27 1941

Another encouraging thing about the lynching record for 1941 is that in 19 instances of attempted mob violence, the prospective victims were saved by officers of the law.

With few exceptions, officers of the law, in the South as elsewhere, consider it their duty to protect at any cost their prisoners from mob action. Unfortunately, this was not always true. In older days, too many officers felt they had done their duty if they arrested a suspect. If some group took him off their hands they felt relieved. In this day and time, any mob that runs into the average officer finds him anxious and ready to protect his prisoner.

This changed attitude on the part of officers is due both to more enlightenment on the part of officers and to the development of a public opinion that says to officers of the law that the law must be allowed to take its course.

DEC 27 1941

No doubt about it, public opinion in this country is almost unanimous against lynching. This is further evidence of the better day that has come in America. Another source of racial hatred and producer of racial clashes is being eradicated.

Charleston S. C. News & Courier
January 6, 1942

Instigators

A white patrolman, Thomas Nettles, twenty-five years old, followed a car filled with negroes to a negro house, to make a traffic investigation. That was in the line of his duty. As Nettles started to get out of his car a negro shot him and "negroes poured out of the house." In a little while Nettles died. That was not a "lynching" however it appears that the negroes were many and the white man was one.

From the characterization by Tuskegee of a fight between three or four white men and a party of negroes near Andrews, S. C., in which a negro was killed (two white men have been tried and convicted of manslaughter in this case), the inference is inescapable that it would have included the killing of the young man Nettles as a "lynching"—had the slayers been white men and the victim a negro.

The simple truth is that the latter day definition of "lynching" is the killing of a negro by white men, two, three or a dozen, in the South. Half a dozen white men may in Chicago, or other Northern community, capture a man, "take him for a ride" and do him to death—and to the uplifters professionally imputing savagery to the South it has no characteristics of a lynching. To them lynching is negro-killing in the South if more than two white men are engaged in it. It must be in a Southern state. Negro gangsters who set on and killed a nineteen year old youth were not lynchers—they killed the boy, you see, in New York City.

In the old sense the word lynching was applied to unlawful slayings by a mob composed of all or a large part of a neighborhood's population. Unless it had the character, in considerable measure, of a "community uprising", it was not thought of as a lynching.

In recent years, the persistent effort has been to create the impression throughout the United States that it is usually a lynching if a man killed be a negro and the crime be done in a Southern state. It is part of the wide-spread, ably, and subtly conducted national campaign by negroes and their white aiders and abettors to pillory the South as barbarous in its treatment of negroes with the purpose always in mind to break down separation of races in the South. It is regrettable that Tuskegee Institute seems to have been coaxed or inveigled to participate in this campaign.

The wretched side of the question is that interracial crimes have been steadily and rapidly decreasing in the South. More and more the two races are content to work out their destinies separately, and against this tendency Northern propagandists deliberately are instigating Southern negroes. Besides, improved communication with incomparably better rural policing resulting, is reducing lynching to a minimum.

Had the tragedy in Spartanburg that cost the life of the young officer occurred twenty years ago, the danger of a lynching might have arisen. There was no suggestion of a lynching in Spartanburg last Sunday. Two negroes were arrested and taken to jail—just as were white men after a negro had been killed near Andrews.

Winston-Salem N. C. Journal
January 3, 1942

Tuskegee Is Stubborn

Into Tuskegee's annual list of lynchings, despite North Carolina protests based soundly and squarely upon logic and indisputable facts, went a Gaston county homicide which was purely a case of murder, or manslaughter.

By this token would Tuskegee assume that any killing of a Negro by one or two white persons constitute a lynching?

To insist that a lynching must in point of definition be the work of a mob is not necessarily to contend that murder or manslaughter is any less heinous than it has ever been considered in the eyes of morality and the law. It is merely to make plain the truth that lynchings reflect community or crowd attitudes while murder or manslaughter merely indicates the emotional attitude of an individual or two or three individuals. Obviously there is a world of difference involved.

Tuskegee does its cause little service by its stubborn attitude in the face of reason and the established facts. But the incident has revealed a very healthful state of public opinion in North Carolina. The encouraging fact, as *The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot* observes, is that the charge of a lynching "could sweep the press into action and stimulate the Governor and numerous others to protest that the state's name had been wronged."

"When public opinion views lynching with this anger," the Norfolk paper continues, "lynching has small chance of survival."

Birmingham Ala News
January 7, 1942

Getting Sensitive

The South has gotten to the point where communities protest against a charge that a lynching occurred there. The report by Tuskegee Institute on 1941 lynchings listed four such crimes in the South. Protests are now being raised against that figure by two communities which insist that the homicides in question there did not fall within the definition of lynching.

In South Carolina, *The Columbia State*, *The Greenville News* and *The Charleston News and Courier* have all insisted that a slaying of a Negro in Georgetown County was not a lynching but a homicide that followed a quarrel between five white men and a Negro over a labor question. The sheriff of that county takes the same position.

In North Carolina, another Negro was slain in Gaston County as a result of what *The Raleigh News and Observer* after investigation calls a "private quarrel" between some white men and a Negro. Each of the white men involved, that paper points out, is now serving a long prison term.

Whether these homicides constitute a lynching is a matter of definition. Tuskegee Institute has gone to considerable effort to arrive at a fair definition of the word and to investigate each incident. It has been accused by some groups, notably the Association for the Advancement of Colored People, of not being inclusive enough in its definition and application. And now comes criticism that the definition takes in too much ground.

It is a wholesome sign when states and communities manifest a quickened conscience in regard to lynchings. These protests from the Carolinas are acknowledgment that a lynching brings upon a community a degree of obloquy and disrepute that is intolerable. A lynching has always been a disgrace, of course, but Southern communities are now getting more sensitive about such a crime.

In that changing attitude there is further evidence that lynching is on the way out.

Johnson City Tenn. Press
January 8, 1942

Our Lynching Record

The South's lynching record has always been a shameful one despite the fact that some progress is being made in the complete eradication of this uncivilized method of dispensing "justice." But improvements, be they ever so light, should be recorded.

In his annual report, F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, says that there were four lynchings during 1941, one each occurring in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. This number is one less than 1940, one more than 1939, two less than 1938 and four less than 1937. Only one of the persons lynched was taken from a jail.

The most significant part of President Patterson's report, however, deals with the number of lynchings which were presented by officers of the law. He records that there were 19 instances in which officers, by prompt action, prevented lynchings, and that 18 of these cases were in the South. Thus the antilynching bill crowd in Congress can see that all the South is not lawless and that much of it is making a determined effort to stop lynchings without interference from Federal authorities. — Dothan (Ala.) Eagle.

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EDITORIALS

Anniston, Ala. Star
December 29, 1941

Alabama Record Clear

As 1941 draws to a close, the people of Alabama can once again congratulate themselves that there have been no lynching instances in the state.

The annual lynching report from Tuskegee Institute reveals that there were four lynchings during 1941, Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina having one each. This is one less than 1940, one more than 1939, two less than 1938 and four less than 1937.

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, one in a northern state and 18 in the South. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken, and in the other, armed force was used. By these actions, one white man and 20 Negroes were saved from the hands of mobs.

Records prove that the Southern States, against which the Federal anti-lynching proposal is principally directed, are taking care of this problem and that no Federal statute is necessary. There is no justice in lynch law, and it has no place in the American scheme of things. Law enforcement officers do everything in their power to prevent such occurrences and the general public is backing them more and more. We hope to see the time when lynchings will disappear completely.

Concord, N. C. Tribune
January 2, 1942

REPEATING AN ERROR.

Tuskegee Institute's annual report on lynchings in the United States, placing the total for 1941 at only four, has brought new protests from North Carolinians against the listing of one lynching in that state.

The Gastonia Gazette reiterates its contention that this report to the contrary, North Carolina has not had a lynching in 1941—up to a few days ago, at any rate. The lynching listed by the Institute as having occurred in North Carolina, says the Gazette, "was the killing of a young Negro named Melker near Cherryville in this county last spring by a group of four drunken young white hoodlums. It was a brutal and unjustified murder but it was not a lynching. Gaston county's Negro population did not so regard it and the idea that it was a lynching never occurred to any one until Tuskegee, out of a clear sky, so catalogued it."

This same case was reported by Tuskegee in its first six-months' survey for 1941 and despite the strong case made against its inclusion by The Gazette and other North Carolina newspapers, we find it still catalogued as a lynching.

If Tuskegee insists upon this sort of thing, in the face of strong evidence to the contrary, the public will no longer put confidence in its reports, no matter what their nature.

Huntingdon Ala News
December 31, 1941

Lynchings In 1941

Lynchings for 1941 in the United States were at the second lowest figure since records have been kept, according to the Department of Records and Research, Tuskegee Institute. In the year just closing there were four lynchings, one each in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. Only once has the number been lower. In 1939 there were only three lynchings.

In the last seven years, 1936 to 1941 inclusive, there have been only 39 lynchings in the United States. In the previous seven years lynchings totaled 115. In the seven years prior to that the total was 180.

Thus it is obvious that the nation has been making progress in the matter of illegal executions. Some agencies and individuals may dispute the accuracy of the Tuskegee report, but inasmuch as the institute has been using substantially the same methods of compiling its records and the same definitions of lynchings for many years, there can be no denial of the evidence that lynchings are growing fewer and fewer.

Almost any year now the nation may be able to go through an entire 12-month period without a lynching. This would be about the best answer to those who persist in agitating for a federal anti-lynching law.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.
DEC 31 1941

Four Lynchings

In the midst of a war that is characterized by fiendish acts of destruction the Tuskegee Institute's report on lynchings in 1941 will attract little attention. Beside the bombing and machine-gunning of civilians in the open city of Manila and the numerous incidents of unmerciful slaughter that the Nazis have perpetrated in Europe, lynchings in America seem to be a very petty abuse. The sharper the contrast becomes, however, the more satisfaction it will give Americans to know that this vestige of barbarism in our own country is near the vanishing point.

President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee reports that only four persons were lynched in 1941. This is a slight improvement over the record of 1940, when five persons were slain by mobs in defiance of the law. Compared with the record of the early thirties, it is a great improvement. Still the country is not back to the low point of three lynchings reached in 1939. And, of course, it is outrageous to have even one individual slaughtered by a mob for a crime of which he may be innocent.

DEC 31 1941

There were 19 instances in which officers of the law are reported to have prevented lynchings. That speaks well of the participating officers, but one of the victims was dragged from a jail before meeting his doom. We must frankly recognize the fact that mob murder is still a blot upon the names of Florida, Georgia and the two Carolinas. Mississippi and Alabama must be given special marks of credit for keeping their records clear of this foul crime in 1941. The States which still tolerate such outrages against civilization should not be allowed to forget that they have entered another black mark against the entire United States. That black mark cannot be erased until the law-enforcement system of every State is strong enough and courageous enough to prevent such atrocities.

Fayetteville, Tenn., News
January 1, 1942

Four Persons Were Lynched During 1941

According to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were four persons lynched in 1941. This is one less than the number five for the year 1940, one more than the number three for the year 1939, two less than the number six for the year 1938, and four less than the number eight for the year 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail.

There were nineteen reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a nothern State and eighteen of the reported instances were in southern States. In eighteen instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used. A total number of twenty-one persons — one white man and twenty negro men — were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, one; suspected of stealing, one; altercation with white man, one; working on job from which whites had been discharged, one.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Florida, one; Georgia one; North Carolina, one; South Carolina, one.

Statesville, N. C. Daily
January 3, 1942

NORTH CAROLINA HAD NO LYNCHING IN 1941

(The Charlotte News)

Generally accepted as the official lynching figures are those compiled by Tuskegee Institute. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People likewise keeps lynching records, but they are subject to some discount for the reason that the organization's crusading zeal sometimes runs away with its judgment.

At any rate, Tuskegee's 1941 report, just issued lists four lynchings for the year.

It was in Gaston county last April that there took place the crime which now goes down in the books as a lynching to North Carolina's discredit. A full report was made by this newspaper. Four white men in their twenties decided to celebrate Easter with a spree. About dusk they were riding along, drunk and looking for trouble, when they met a young Negro couple, bride and bridegroom of a week. They shouted obscenities and when the Negro man resented their behavior, a rock-fight took place, with no casualties. They chased the Negro couple to their family home where they were met by the man's mother, who ordered them off her premises (as she had a right to do) and fired at them with a shotgun.

After darkness they returned with guns, and when the young Negro bridegroom stepped out of the dwelling with his own gun, they shot him eight or nine times.

It was a brutal crime, and perhaps the four white men deserved more than the sentences, ranging from fourteen to twenty-five years, that they got. Murder it was, however—wanton, bestial murder, and not lynching. Tuskegee to the contrary notwithstanding, North Carolina had no lynching in 1941. The country at large had but three.

St. Petersburg, Fla. Times
December 30, 1941

Once Again!

THOSE who hoped that Florida had become civilized enough to keep its name off the 1941 list of states in which lynchings occurred, face disappointment again this year.

Along with Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, Florida's name appears on the role of offending states, each with one such lawless outrage chalked up against it.

The pity is that the illegal acts of a few mob members can throw disgrace and ignominy on all other residents of the state by their criminal acts. We may hope that 1942 will find this stain erased, with Florida omitted from next year's roll of dishonor.

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EDITORIALS

Gastonia N. C. Gazette
January 5, 1942

NO S. C. LYNCHING

(Greenville News)

Tuskegee Institute's claim that four lynchings occurred in this country in 1941 has been vigorously attacked in North Carolina as inaccurate insofar as concerns the one lynching listed for that state.

It is of special interest to South Carolinians to note that now a similar attack is made on the accuracy of the institute's claim that one lynching occurred in this state. The basis of this claim is the violent death of a Negro in Georgetown county. The institute says the Negro was working on a job from which whites had been discharged; that he "died of head wounds" and five men were held responsible for his death. Sheriff Bruorton, of Georgetown county, has formally denied that this Negro was "lynched," and says he "got in a fight with a white man and was killed."

From the accounts of the "lynchings" charged to North Carolina and South Carolina, it would appear that there is good reason to judge that while murder or homicide was committed there was no "lynching" in either state.

There is, of course, an essential distinction between murder and lynching, and the fact that several or a number of persons may be involved in committing a murder does not necessarily make the crime a "lynching." The essence of a lynching is that the victim is being punished by citizens in an irregular way without due process of law for a crime or alleged crime. The gang murders which have been so common in some northern states have never been classified as "lynchings."

Tuskegee, it would certainly appear, has gone on very uncertain ground in certain of these alleged lynchings in order to make up its claimed record of four lynchings in 1941. If the North and South Carolina cases are disallowed as lynchings the total for 1941 would stand at only two, which is a new low record.

Roanoke, Va., World News
January 7, 1942

Editorial Comment

Four Lynchings

(Washington Post)

In the midst of a war that is characterized by fiendish acts of destruction the Tuskegee Institute's report on lynchings in 1941 will attract little attention. Beside the bombing and machine-gunning of civilians in the open city of Manila and the numerous incidents of unmerciful slaughter that the Nazis have perpetrated in Europe, lynchings in America seem to be a very petty abuse. The sharper the contrast becomes, however, the more satisfaction it will give Americans to know that this vestige of barbarism in our own country is near the vanishing point.

President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee reports that only four persons were lynched in 1941. This is a slight improvement over the record of 1940, when five persons were slain by mobs in defiance of the law. Compared with the record of the early thirties, it is a great improvement. Still the country is not back to the low point of three lynchings reached in 1939. And, of course, it is outrageous to have even one individual slaughtered by a mob for a crime of which he may be innocent.

There were 19 instances in which officers of the law are reported to have prevented lynchings. That speaks well of the participating officers, but one of the victims was dragged from a jail before meeting his doom. We must frankly recognize the fact that mob murder is still a blot upon the names of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. Mississippi and Alabama must be given special marks of credit for keeping their records clear of this foul crime in 1941. The States which still tolerate such outrages against civilization should not be allowed to forget that they have entered another black mark against the entire United States. That black mark cannot be erased until the law-enforcement system of every State is strong enough and courageous enough to prevent such atrocities.

Spartanburg, S. C. Herald
January 8, 1942

The Carolinas Not Guilty

Tuskegee Institute in its report on lynchings in 1941 noted only four cases, one in each of the states of South Carolina, North Carolina and Florida. The showing for the year was good, compared to many previous years, but the states of South Carolina and North Carolina plead not guilty. Investigation by the county authorities in the two counties in the Carolinas in which the deaths occurred reveal that they were not caused by mobs but were the result of private quarrels.

South and North Carolina seem justified in erasing their names from the list of states in which mob executions took place last year. That reduces to two the number of lynchings in 1941, which is the lowest in the history of the country. Let the record be kept straight. The people of the southern states are proud of the anti-mob progress they have made and will work for and welcome the year when not one lynching is recorded in the United States.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
January 8, 1942

The Decline of Lynching

ONE of the most gratifying bits of news on the domestic front is the announcement from Tuskegee that only four lynchings occurred during 1941, and that in 19 other instances, officers of the law prevented mob violence.

The drastic decline in lynchings during recent years gives rise to the hope that the crime can be wiped out entirely in a short time through State action. There was an aggregate of 12 lynchings for the past three years combined, whereas several times as many occurred during nearly every year two or three decades ago. Even Mississippi had not a single orgiastic murder during 1941. With such a record, and the trend still downward throughout the South, we seem not far away from the elimination of this dark blot on the region's good name.

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
January 5, 1942

4 Lynchings, or Only 2?

IN ITS ANNUAL REPORT on lynchings, Tuskegee lists only four cases of execution by mob law in 1941. The number compares with five in 1940, three in 1939, six in 1938, eight in 1937. The States cited are Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Responsible citizens of the two Carolinas deny vigorously that there was a lynching in their States. A Negro was killed in Gaston County, North Carolina last April, but the *News and Observer*, of Raleigh, which made a careful investigation at the time, concluded that the homicide was the result of a private quarrel between white men and a Negro. "It did not fall within any of the accepted definitions of lynching," the newspaper says, "and, moreover, each of the white men involved is now serving a long prison term." Sheriff Bruorton, of Georgetown County, South Carolina, denies the violent death of a Negro in his county was lynching. Five men were held responsible for the death in a quarrel which arose from a labor dispute. The homicide is likened by the *Greenville News* to the gang murders of the East.

This reaction of citizens of the communities specified is a wholesome sign. The crime of lynching will soon be eradicated from the South. It was the by-product of a stupid and cruel dislocation forced upon two races by so-called Reconstruction. But its day is done. Public opinion holds it in hatred and contempt.

Columbia, Tenn., Daily Herald
January 3, 1942

LYNCHINGS.

In the midst of so much other news, the fact that only four lynchings occurred in the United States last year can easily be overlooked.

However, this is the lowest number of persons ever lynched in this nation and shows that lynching is dying off itself as we become more conscious of it as a crime.

Incidentally, there were 19 known instances in which officers prevented lynchings. As a matter of fact, an officer who allows one in these days is practically automatically guilty of criminal negligence.

Asheville, N. C., Times
January 5, 1942

Tuskegee's Mistake

IT IS a matter of deep regret that in its annual report on lynching in the United States Tuskegee Institute repeats the error, against which its governing officials were warned months ago, charging North Carolina with the mob killing of a Negro murdered by four drunken white men in Gaston county. (The four now are serving prison terms).

This mistaken accounting makes the national record read four lynchings last year, as compared with five in 1940 and three in 1939. The true record for 1941 is three, and by no known rules, and by none soundly conceived, for pronouncing judgment upon unlawful homicide can this Gaston County case be called a lynching.

The Negro was a man of good reputation. There was neither community feeling nor demonstration against him nor was he charged with any crime. In short, there was in this tragic incident not one of the elements of a lynching. Furthermore, this state takes just pride in its record of no lynching over the last several years.

Nevertheless, the overshadowing consideration in this long struggle of the responsible elements of both races in the South, for justice to the Negro and for better relationships in general between the races, is too plain and encouraging to suffer from the Institute's mistake. The Southern people now know that the stain of lynching can be wiped out; and therefore citizens, law officers, newspapers, schools, churches and colleges will continue their work for the supremacy of law and for the practice of every-day democracy in race relationships.

Brevard, N. C., Transylvania Times
January 8, 1942

Their Brother's Keeper

The folks down at Tuskegee Institute, institution of higher learning for Negroes, founded by that immortal of Negroes, Booker T. Washington, are keeping up with mob lynchings in this country, and each year the president down there, F. D. Patterson, sends out a report on the Institute's findings. This year those findings are gratifying — not in the sense that there still are mob lynchings but that lynchings are on the decline here in the South where, two decades ago, a Negro wrote his death by committing any of numerous offenses.

The report from Tuskegee shows that our law officers are living up to the idea, or ideal, of practising the fact that they are their brother's keeper. Out of a total of 21 attempts in 1941, only four lynchings were carried out—a real tribute to the efficiency and perseverance of our law officers here in the South. Also, the 21 attempted lynchings represented a decline in the mob psychology of lynchings over the period of the past ten years.

A sample of the offense which heat mobs to the lynching point include the following: attempted rape, suspected of stealing, altercation with white man, and working on a job from which whites had been discharged. Mayhap all of these offenses are worthy of punishment, certainly the first one but doubtfully the last one, but the laws of our land have been established to protect the citizenry, and the law and its official representatives should be left to decide the fate of those found guilty of disobeying the laws.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
January 6, 1942

UNSATISFACTORY REPORT

(Greensboro News)

The Daily News, along with other newspapers, is in receipt of Tuskegee Institute's annual report on lynchings which relates that four lynchings occurred in the United States in 1941 as compared with five in 1940 and the all-time low of three in 1939.

Despite this reduction by one, representing a 20 per cent decline, the report contains the basis for much dissatisfaction. There will be dissatisfaction, from the general viewpoint, until lynchings are completely eliminated and public sentiment built up which simply will not tolerate them. More specifically, there is reiterated differences of opinion with Tuskegee's classification of a murder which occurred in North Carolina, in Gaston county last April to be exact, as a lynching.

When the crime at point took place and the lynching cry was raised, The Daily News, which claims to be second to none in its condemnation of mobbery and its advocacy of stringent anti-lynching legislation, protested that cry. The fact that Tuskegee officials saw fit to reject the burden of evidence which was marshaled and presented them and to mark this lynching against the state permanently tends to lessen greatly our acceptance of and confidence in its annual reports which we had heretofore recognized as the authentic record in this particular field of violence. What happened in Gaston county was plain murder. If indisputable establishment of that classification was desired, it came when the attackers were ferreted out, arrested, tried and given severe punishment for their crime. Lynching, cut to the pattern which the South knows all too well, simply does not have any such denouement; and Tuskegee's realists should be among the first to recognize this practical difference.

But, for all this disagreement, the year 1941 and what happened then are behind us. The responsibility remains, as it has always remained, for the eradication of lynchings. Negroes, joining in all the sacrifices essential to the preservation of our country and our democracy, are entitled, first of all, to the fullest protection by government and equal enjoyment of democratic processes. Fighting to end totalitarian excesses is wholly immiscible with the lynching spirit in the citadel of democracy and the seat of this opposition.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
January 7, 1942

TWO LYNCHING GOALS

(News and Observer)

The annual report of the Tuskegee Institute on lynchings in 1941 will seem less important than usual because of the overshadowing events of the war. But the report is important in that it indicates two easily obtainable goals for 1942: one is the complete eradication of lynching in the United States, and the other is re-establishment of the unquestioned accuracy of the reports of the Tuskegee Institute.

Unfortunately, the 1941 figures, showing four lynchings in 1941, as compared with five in 1940 and the all-time low record of three in 1939 are open to serious question. North Carolina, which in recent years has been accredited with few lynchings, is recorded as the scene of one of four lynchings listed by the Tuskegee Institute. That so-called lynching, the killing of a Negro by white men in Gaston county last April, was the result of a private quarrel and did not fall within any of the accepted definitions of a lynching. Moreover, each of the white men involved in the killing is now serving a long prison term. If the affair in North Carolina was in fact a lynching, North Carolina should have given credit for being the first state in history to imprison all of those involved in a lynching. Instead, the State has been heralded to the world as one of four upon which the crime of lynching cast a blot in 1941, the other three states being Florida, Georgia and Alabama.

The News and Observer has no positive information concerning what occurred in the other three states, but The News and Observer does know that the inclusion of North Carolina was a gross inaccuracy, such a gross inaccuracy as to throw a question mark upon all the figures compiled on the subject. Unless such statistics are accurate they are obviously valueless.

But lynching can be eradicated. The 1941 figures show that conclusively. There was no lynching during 1941 in Mississippi, which leads the country in the number of lynchings, having had 571 reported since 1882 as compared with 99 for North Carolina. What was done in 1941 in Mississippi can be done in 1942 in every state. This year would be a peculiarly appropriate one for complete eradication of the crime of lynching. The nation is at war and it is no time for Americans to be killing each other. Moreover, the Negro race, against which the crime of lynching is generally directed, has given such a splendid demonstration of unquestioned loyalty in this crisis that the least the dominant race should do in appreciation is to see to it that every Negro charged with crime be given a fair trial which constitutes one of the most precious rights which the nation is seeking to preserve.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
January 12, 1942

'A Problem Eases'

From the Cincinnati Enquirer.

The crime of lynching, on occasion so prevalent as to arouse strong support in Congress for stringent Federal legislation, seemingly has declined in scope to a point where it is an infrequent horror rather than a practice.

In its regular annual report, the Tuskegee Institute of Alabama lists four persons lynched during 1941. This was one less than the number for 1940. In 1939 there were three lynchings, in 1938 there were six, and in 1937 there were eight.

One of the four persons lynched last year (all were Negroes) was taken from a jail. However, there were nineteen instances in which officers prevented lynchings, and in all a total of one white man and twenty Negro men were saved from mob action. All but one of such instances was in the South.

Thus it would appear that while the mob spirit still flares occasionally, officers of the law as a whole are dealing with it more determinedly, more courageously, and more effectively. And therein, unquestionably, lies the secret of the near solution of the lynching problem.

It is debatable whether the stringent Federal legislation so strongly agitated for in Congress a few years ago could

most inconsequential part in public life. And for that, and color can indeed be

The lynching problem cannot be said to be "solved" until the horror ceases to occur, however infrequently. But in comparison with other heinous crimes, total number of cases considered, it would appear that mob action now

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
December 28, 1941

GENERAL MECKLENBURG.

Dr. F. D. Patterson, President,
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

Dear Dr. Patterson:

As the year 1941 ends this week, I assume that in a few days your institution's department of records and research will announce the number of lynchings it has listed for the year, as at the end of many past years.

For many years Tuskegee Institute has had a reputation for accuracy and the public has had too much faith in its figures to question them. And each year many people throughout the country have anticipated with interest the Tuskegee report on the number of lynchings, listing the states in which they occurred.

However, I do not hesitate to say in advance that if your department of records and research in its annual report this year should credit Gaston county, North Carolina, with a lynching, many people will lose their long-standing respect for the Tuskegee figures on lynchings. The latest information I had, several months ago, indicated that the department was insisting that the killing of a Negro in that county must be classified as a lynching, even though the victim was not a prisoner, was not charged with any crime and had not been arrested. He was merely shot and killed by a bunch of drunks, after some sort of altercation, and they were promptly arrested, tried, convicted and given long prison terms.

The only reason I can see for classing that as a lynching is that more than one person had a part in the affair that resulted in the Negro's death. And that circumstance never before has made a lynching of a common, unprovoked murder, as we in this part of the country have understood it. It would not have been classed as a lynching by the Tuskegee department under the long-standing definition, which has been changed in very recent years for some unexplained reason, or none at all.

GENERAL MECKLENBURG.

Sanford, Fla., Herald
December 26, 1941

Lynchings

Some hope for the ultimate eradication of the lynching evil is seen in the figures released this week by the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama which show that only four instances of such law violations occurred in the entire United States during the past year. This is one less than in the previous year, one more than in 1939, two less than in 1938, and four less than in 1937.

However, there would have been 19 lynchings this year if officers of the law had not shown the courage to do their duty and prevent them. All except one of these cases where lynchings were prevented took place in the South and reveal the complete change of attitude among law enforcement officers since the old days when negroes were pushed off the rear end of the train directly into the hands of an awaiting mob.

Unfortunately Florida was one of the states in which a lynching occurred this year. The others were Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. It is no credit to this state that it ranks with the worst in law violations of this kind. We hope that next year will see a complete change of heart in this respect. As a general rule law enforcement officers can prevent lynchings if they really want to and know the public is behind them.

Newberry, S. C., Observer
December 30, 1941

MARRING OUR RECORD

South Carolina's perfect lynching record of the past couple years has been marred. According to statistics released by the Tuskegee Institute, there was one lynching in South Carolin in 1941, four persons only being lynched during the year. Other states having one lynching each were Florida, Georgia and North Carolina.

However the four lynchings during 1941 compared favorably with the five lynchings of 1940, showing that much is being accomplished along this line. However four lynchings were four too many.

Slowly we are learning that justice should be meted out by our courts and not at the hands of a mad-stricken mob.

Valdosta, Ga., Daily Times
December 31, 1941

LYNCHINGS IN 1941

From the Tuskegee Institute comes the information that during the year 1941 there were 4 persons lynched in the United States. This is one less than the number for the year 1940, one more than the number 3 in 1939, two less than the number 6 for the year 1938 and four less than the 8 that were lynched in 1937.

One of those lynched in 1941 was taken from jail.

During the year there were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a Northern state and the other 18 were in Southern states. In 18 instances persons were removed or guards increased or other precautions taken. In 1 instance, armed force was used. A total of 21 persons—1 white man and 20 Negroes—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All of those lynched this year were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with a white man, 1; working at a job from which whites had been discharged, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred were one each in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

This record is one that none of us can point to with pride, but it is so much better than a few years ago that there is reason to be gratified at the showing.

In recent years there has been a sharp reduction in the number of lynchings and attempted lynchings. For a time there was considerable agitation for a federal law against lynching. The proposed legislation would have placed severe penalties on counties in which lynchings took place. Far-seeking members of Congress have fought against such legislation, taking the position that the evil was gradually being eliminated and also arguing that in due course of time it would be practically eliminated. The improvement more than justifies the position of those who have opposed any such law.

No right-thinking person excuses lynchings. Such occurrences are nothing more nor less than open defiance of the law. However, we do not believe the solution lies in any federal legislation. Prompt arrest and trial of those accused of crime and a lessening of the pardon and parole evil will, in time, make lynchings and other instances of mob violence rare happenings.

We can improve on the record of this year and we are confident that such improvement will be made.

Columbus, Ga., Ledger
December 29, 1941

Lynchings Decline

There were four persons lynched during the year 1941, according to reports compiled in the department of records and research at Tuskegee Institute. This is one less than the total for the preceding year, one more than was recorded in 1939, two less than for the year 1938 and four less than those reported in 1937.

According to the report, there were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used.

All of the persons lynched, according to the report, were negroes, and offenses charged were attempted criminal assault, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged, 1.

One lynching was recorded in each of the following four states: Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Lynchings occurred in no other states.

It is indeed encouraging to note the downward trend in lynchings, however, it is to be regretted there are still instances in this country where mobs presist in taking the law into their own hands.

Progress is being made in eliminating this unlawful and unjust means of exacting a penalty from an accused, but complete success will not be achieved until lynchings have been done away with—until all mankind is free from mob violence.

We look forward with anticipation to that day.

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EDITORIALS

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
January 18, 1942

For Another Institution

Statistics of lynching kept and published by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, have in the past had considerable value, but of late years Tuskegee has shown incapacity to define lynching. Its classification apparently has been influenced by considerations of "race"; it has come to be almost worthless. It would be well for some university as, Chicago, Missouri, Yale, Vanderbilt, to keep records of lynching and to publish them.

Birmingham, Ala. News
January 1, 1942

Records Show Four Lynchings In 1941

Four persons were lynched in the United States this year, one less than the 1940 total, it is announced by F. D.-Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, after a study of reports compiled by the Department of Records and Research.

There were but three lynchings in 1939, but six in 1938 and eight in 1937, the report shows, and only one of the persons lynched in 1941 were taken from a jail.

He reports 19 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, one instance in a Northern state and 18 in Southern states. In 18 instances persons were removed from jails or guards were augmented and other precautions taken, and in one case armed force was used, the report cites. A total number of 21 persons—one white man and 20 Negroes— were saved from mob violence, the report continues.

All persons lynched in the United States were Negroes after being charged with various offenses. Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina had one each.

Dr. Patterson summarized the details as follows:

1. Feb. 15, 1941, Andrews (Georgetown County), S. C.; Bruce Tisdale, Negro; charge: Working on a job from which whites had been discharged; died of head wounds.

2. April 13, 1941, Gaston County (near Cherryville), North Carolina; Robert Melker, Negro; charge: Altercation with white men; shot to death in his home.

3. May 6, 1941, Blakely (Early County), Ga.; Robert Sapp, Negro; charge: Suspected of stealing from his employer; flogged with a club and a piece of machine belting.

4. May 13, 1941, Quincy (Gadsden County), Fla.; A. C. Williams, Negro; charge: Attempted rape upon a 12-year-old white girl; beaten and body riddled with bullets.

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union
January 13, 1942

SHORT TALKS

"Some hope for the ultimate eradication of the lynching evil," comments The Sanford Herald, "is seen in the figures released . . . by the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama which show that only four instances of such law violations occurred in the entire United States during the past year. This is one less than in the previous year, one more than in 1939, two less than in 1938, and four less than in 1937. However, there would have been 19 lynchings this year if officers of the law had not shown the courage to do their duty and prevent them. All except one of these cases where lynchings were prevented took place in the South and reveal the complete change of attitude among law enforcement officers since the old days when negroes were pushed off the rear end of the train directly into the hands of an awaiting mob. Unfortunately Florida was one of the States in which a lynching occurred this year. The others were Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. It is no credit to this State that it ranks with the worst in law violations of this kind. We hope that next year will see a complete change of heart in this respect. As a general rule law enforcement officers can prevent lynchings if they really want to and know the public is behind them."

Hartsville, S. C. Messenger
January 1, 1942

FOUR LYNCHINGS REPORTED FOR 1941

Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina Have One Each.

According to reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, there were 4 persons lynched in 1941. This is 1 less than the number 5 for the year 1940, 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for the year 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail.

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total number of 21 persons—1 white man and 20 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offences charged were: Attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; North Carolina, 1; South Carolina, 1.

Cullman, Ala., Tribune
January 1, 1942

Four Lynchings For 1941

According to reports compiled by F. D. Patterson, President of Tuskegee Institute, there was a total of four lynchings occured in 1942 which is one less than those in 1940.

There were nineteen reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, one in the northern states and eighteen in the southern states.

All persons lynched were negroes charged with attempted rape, suspect of stealing, altercation with a white man, working on job from which whites had been discharged.

States in which lynchings occured were one in each of the following states; Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
December 31, 1941

'41 Lynchings Number Four

South Carolina Contributed One Mob-Slaying, Tuskegee Report Shows

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31—(AP)—Tuskegee Institute reported today that four persons, all negroes, were lynched in 1941 and in 19 other instances officers of the law prevented lynchings.

The report, released by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the negro school, said the lynchings compared with five in 1940 and three in 1939.

The four lynchings were in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, the department reported. The victims were accused, respectively, of attempted rape, stealing, fighting with a white man and working on a job from which whites had been discharged, the report added. One was removed from jail by the killers.

Dr. Patterson summarized the details as follows:

February 15, 1941, Andrews, (Georgetown county) South Carolina: Bruce Tisdale, negro; charge: working on a job from which whites had been discharged; died of head wounds.

April 13, 1941, Gaston county (near Cherryville) North Carolina: Robert Melker, negro; charge: altercation with white men; shot to death in his home.

May 6, 1941, Blakely, (Early county) Georgia: Robert Sapp, negro; charge: suspected of stealing from his employer: flogged with a club and a piece of machine belting.

May 13, 1941, Quincy, (Gadsden county) Florida: A. C. Williams, negro; charge: attempted rape upon a 12-year-old white girl: beaten and body riddled with bullets.

Greenville, S. C. News
January 2, 1942

NO S. C. LYNCHING

Tuskegee Institute's claim that four lynchings occurred in this country in 1941 has been vigorously attacked in North Carolina as inaccurate insofar as concerns the one lynching listed for that state.

It is of special interest to South Carolinians to note that now a similar attack is made on the accuracy of the institute's claim that one lynching occurred in this state. The basis of this claim is the violent death of a negro in Georgetown county. The institute says the negro was working on a job from which whites had been discharged; that he "died of head wounds" and five men were held responsible for his death. Sheriff Bruorton, of Georgetown county, has formally denied that this negro was "lynched," and says he "got in a fight with a white man and was killed."

From the accounts of the "lynchings" charged to North Carolina and South Carolina, it would appear that there is good reason to judge that while murder or homicide was commited there was no "lynching" in either state.

There is, of course, an essential distinction between murder and lynching, and the fact that several or a number of persons may be involved in committing a murder does not necessarily make the crime a "lynching." The essence of a lynching is that the victim is being punished by citizens in an irregualr way without due process of law for a crime or alleged crime. The gang murders which have been so common in some northern states have never been classified as "lynchings."

Tuskegee, it would certainly appear, has gone on very uncertain ground in certain of these alleged lynchings in order to make up its claimed record of four lynchings in 1941. If the North and South Carolina cases are disallowed as lynchings the total for 1941 would stand at only two, which is a new low record.

Rome, Ga. News-Tribune
January 6, 1942

The Original Judge Lynch

It is reported by the Tuskegee Institute, famous Negro institution, that there were four lynchings in the South during 1941. The report shows also that there were 19 instances in which lynchings were prevented.

This is a remarkable tribute to the success of the war that has been waged by the South upon lawlessness and it would be interesting to know how this section compares to the North, East and West in the matter of lynchings.

Unfortunately, nobody takes the trouble to keep a record of lynchings in the North, East or West, where they are much more frequent than in the South. This is due to a very general misunderstanding of what the term "lynching" means.

The general idea seems to be that lynching is something that happens almost exclusively in the South and that it involves the taking of human life by unlawful means.

This is not all that it means, as every educated person is aware.

Lynching describes the acts of private citizens who take the law into their own hands and inflict punishment without "due process of law." When mobs beat up an individual that is a lynching, and were the record kept in accurate form it is probable that Detroit would, over a period of years, lead the whole country in such acts of violence. The auto troubles there a few years ago produced more lynchings than occur in the South in ten years.

The origin of the term "Lynch law" is interesting and suggestive. Known originally as "Lynch's law," the term arose out of the practices of Charles Lynch, a Justice of the Peace and Virginia patriot, who resorted to extralegal methods of heaping punishment upon Tories who sought to obstruct the processes of freedom. His work in this connection was so highly appreciated by the patriots of Virginia that the Assembly of in 1782 passed an Act indemnifying him for his services.

Thus lynch law had its origin in extralegal processes inspired by patriotic motives. How the term ever came to relate almost exclusively to extralegal executions in the South is not clear. It probably was a part of the effort made during the reconstruction era to smear the South as much as possible. The term was warped to mean a crime committed by a mob in the South but not applying to a crime committed by a mob in the North, East or West, though there is not and never has been any such distinction in point of fact. Every act of mob violence, whether the victim is beaten or slain, is a lynching, regardless of where it occurs.

It is important to know these things because a pecular stigma has been caused to become attached to mob violence in the South while no such stigma attaches to similar crimes committed elsewhere in the nation. Let it be remembered that a lynching occurs every time a mob inflicts punishment upon an individual without due process of law and let it be known also that nowhere are efforts to suppress such lawlessness more pronounced or more successful than in the South.

Concord, N. C. Tribune
January 12, 1942

TWO LYNCHING GOALS.

News and Observer.

The annual report of the Tuskegee Institute on lynchings in 1941 will seem less important than usual because of the overshadowing events of the war. But the report is important in that it indicates two easily obtainable goals for 1942 one is the complete eradication of lynching in the United States, and the other is re-establishment of the unquestioned accuracy of the reports of the Tuskegee Institute.

Unfortunately, the 1941 figures, showing four lynchings in 1941, as compared with five in 1940 and the all-time low record of three in 1939 are open to serious question. North Carolina, which in recent years has been accredited with few lynchings, is recorded as the scene of one of four lynchings listed by the Tuskegee Institute. That so-called lynching, the killing of a Negro by white men in Gaston county last April, was the result of a private quarrel and did not fall within any of the accepted definitions of a lynching. Moreover, each of the white men involved in the killing is now serving a long prison term. If the affair in North Carolina was in fact a lynching, North Carolina should have given credit for being the first state in history to imprison all of those involved in a lynching. Instead, the State has been heralded to the world as one of four upon which the crime of lynching cast a blot in 1941, the other three states being Florida, Georgia and Alabama.

The News and Observer has no positive information concerning what occurred in the other three states, but The News and Observer does know that the inclusion of North Carolina was a gross inaccuracy, such a gross inaccuracy as to throw a question mark upon all the figures compiled on the subject. Unless such statistics are accurate they are obviously valueless.

But lynching can be eradicated. The 1941 figures show that conclusive. There was no lynching during 1941 in Mississippi, which leads the country in the number of lynchings, having had 571 reported since 1882 as compared with 99 for North Carolina. What was done in 1941 in Mississippi can be done in 1942 in every state. This year would be a peculiarly appropriate one for complete eradication of the crime of lynching. The nation is at war and it is no time for Americans to be killing each other. Moreover, the Negro race, against which the crime of lynching is generally directed, has given such a splendid demonstration of unquestioned loyalty in this crisis that the least the dominant race should do in appreciation is to see to it that every Negro charged with crime be given a fair trial which constitutes one of the most precious rights which the nation is seeking to preserve.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
January 5, 1942

The 1941 Lynching Record.

Heretofore, the figures on lynchings in the United States as compiled by the Tuskegee Institute, the famous school for negroes in Tuskegee, Alabama, have been generally accepted as correct. But Tuskegee's 1941 report is now being seriously questioned, in fact, emphatically denied in some quarters, with respect to two of the alleged mob crimes it lists.

Tuskegee reports one lynching in North Carolina—a young negro who was done to death by four drunken white men. It appears, however, that this was a murder and not a lynching. The white men were in the wrong. They picked a fight with the negro and later shot and killed him. The white rowdies were apprehended, tried, convicted and sentenced to long prison terms. The crime was wanton and bestial, but the official evidence showed the tragedy wasn't a murder.

Tuckegee reports one lynching in South Carolina, in Georgetown county, but Sheriff H. B. Bruorton, of that county, says: "Nobody was lynched in this county this year (1941). * * * Bruce Tisdale (the negro Tuskegee reports was lynched) got in a fight with a white man and was killed."

In view of the apparent strength of the evidence denying the occurrence of lynchings in the Carolinas in 1941, it would seem to be in order for the Tuskegee statisticians to review the evidence with the idea of determining whether revisals should be made in their 1941 report. It is terrible, of course, a shame and a disgrace, that there were any lynchings and any murders; but in any event it is important that the record should contain the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

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ALABAMA

JUSTICE DEMANDED IN 'POLICE CAR' SLAYING

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(SNS)—Action for justice in the slaying of John Jackson, 30-year-old Fairfield Sheet mill worker, moved nearer reality this week when James H. Hard, civic service personnel director gave a verbal answer to newspapermen in answer to a resolution he had received by mail from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Mr. Hard stated that:

"Section 27 of the civil service act provides that charges may be filed with the Personnel Board against any municipal employe by any officer, citizen or taxpayer. If you desire to file such charges, I assure you that the Personnel Board will take action and that a public hearing will be had as provided by law"

Mr. Hard pointed out to newspaper men that the NAACP resolution did not give the name of the persons involved in the shooting or the time of the occurrence.

Jackson was shot by Officer Hubert Alexander as Jackson reportedly slashed at the officer with a knife, cutting the latter's finger. Jackson was being taken to jail on a "disorderly conduct" charge at the time.

Fairfield Police Chief E. L. Allman termed the shooting "justified" and Bessemer Coroner T. J. McCullum returned a verdict of justifiable homicide.

Officer Alexander was suspended by Chief Allman shortly after the shooting. He was reinstated May 2 after the public safety council of Fairfield City Council reported in part: "While deplorable, there is no evidence that Officer Alexander was not justified in his action. This is in accord with the findings of the coroner.

Fairfield citizens and many in distant sections have demanded "specific action" in the slaying terming it "another lynching."

Many union locals have indicated their williness to participate in effort to raise funds to see that the case is given a legal hearing and that it gets before the civic service board.

The resolution by the NAACP was carried by this publication Tuesday. "White dailies have almost remained silent on the slaying. A short "item" was carried by a local morning paper the day following the shooting. While another paper carried two letters from readers, both white and none of them from a distant city nothing that would present the facts has been carried "an official stated. It was recalled that nothing was carried concerning a similar slaying by Fairfield officers a year ago in the dailies until the WORLD had exposed the gruesome murder.

MAY 1 1941

MAY 5 1941

JUN 3 1941

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Seek Dismissal Of Police In Jackson Death

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(SNS)—A petition asking dismissal of three Fairfield policemen in connection with the beating and fatal shooting of John Jackson on April 26 was received by the Civil Service Board last week from Morel Montgomery, attorney representing Marshall Jackson, a relative of the slain man.

The complaint charges Officers Hugh Alexander, Ed Taylor and W. R. Gunby with the responsibility for Jackson's death. The officers were expected to answer the petition this week. A hearing will be held by the board following their answer.

Jackson was shot while being transported to the Fairfield City Jail in a squad car. He was severely beaten while waiting to enter the Fairfield theatre on April 26, arrested for laughing out loud, shot four times while in the custody of the officers and found to have been dead upon arrival at the Ensley T. C. I. Hospital.

Following a demand from Fairfield citizens for "justice," Mayor Gilley and the Fairfield City Council announced that the slaying was justified. Coroner T. J. McCollum also exonerated the officers. Jackson was said by officers to have slashed the finger of Officer Taylor with a pocket knife, while riding in the police car.

Witnesses to the sidewalk beating stated that Jackson was beaten almost to death before being placed in the car. Neighbors stated that he owned no knife and examination of his body showed that his right arm had been broken as a result of the beating he received from the officers.

7/25/41

BIRMINGHAM NAACP HAS
COP DISCHARGED AND WILL
PROSECUTE HIM FOR MURDER

Birmingham, Ala.---Hubert G. Alexander, a white policeman of this city, was discharged from his position by the personnel board of the police department for conduct unbecoming an officer, after legal action had been taken by Attorneys Morrell Montgomery and Arthur D. Shores, retained by the Birmingham branch of the N.A.A.C.P. Mr. Shores announced that Alexander will now be prosecuted on a charge of murder.

The story began April 26, when Officers Alexander, W. R. Gunby, and Ed Taylor arrested John Jackson, a Negro. Alexander at that time charged that Jackson laughed at him as he walked by the colored man. Alexander so resented Jackson's laughter that he struck him with his pistol.

Jackson was arrested, placed in the police car, and on the way to the station, Alexander shot Jackson four times, killing him.

The coroner investigated and brought in a verdict of justifiable homicide, and the grand jury refused to indict the officer.

At this point, the Birmingham branch of the N.A.A.C.P. retained attorneys Montgomery and Shores, and succeeded in having Alexander fired. A murder charge will now be pushed.

Southern News
Almanac
Birmingham, Ala.

Shameful" Whitewashing" Exposed

One of the most shocking stories that has ever passed through the editorial offices of the Southern News Almanac appears this week on page 1.

It tells how three official agencies, two of Jefferson County and one of the City of Fairfield, conducted "investigations" of the killing of John Jackson, a Negro prisoner, by a Fairfield police officer. In these "investigations" testimony was taken from witnesses for one side only—that of the accused officer. There is no reason to believe that any attempt was made to get testimony from the other side. There is every indication, on the contrary, that the "investigations" were mock investigations. There is every indication that they were intended from the very first, not to dig into the facts and find out the truth, but to exonerate the officer, to "whitewash" and hush up the case, to throw a sop to an indignant public before the demand for prosecution of the officer and a house-cleaning in the Fairfield police department grows too strong to be ignored.

Such tactics will not add to the prestige of the Fairfield police department. They will only confirm the people's suspicion that behind this case is a depth of rottenness not yet revealed which the authorities are anxious to hide.

The dismissal of Officer Hubert Alexander is a victory for the decent people of the South of both races. It is also an indication that the people cannot rest here and regard the Jackson [illegible]. If there is evidence enough to force Alexander's dismissal, there is evidence enough to go to a jury.

The people should demand that Solicitor Arthur Green reopen the case before the grand jury—and this time go after an indictment.

Southern News
Almanac
Birmingham, Ala.

Jackson Slayer Is Dismissed By Board; Whitewash Exposed

A conspiracy by Fairfield city officers and county (Bessemer cut-off) authorities to "whitewash" and hush up the killing of John Jackson, Negro steel worker, by a Fairfield policeman was revealed by witnesses at a Civil Service Board hearing last week.

The Civil Service Board, responding to outraged public opinion, found Hubert Alexander guilty of "conduct unbecoming an officer" in the slaying of Jackson and dismissed him from the Fairfield police force. Cross-examination of city and county officials at the hearing revealed that three previous "investigations" at which Alexander had been exonerated heard only witnesses for the officer.

These "investigations" were those conducted by the coroner whose verdict was "justifiable homicide," a Fairfield police department committee, which exonerated Alexander, and the Bessemer grand jury, which returned a "no bill" refusing to indict Alexander for murder or manslaughter.

HEARD ONE SIDE

Coroner McCollum, cross-examined by Morel Montgomery, attorney who represented John Jackson's brother in filing the civil service charges admitted on the stand that he had based his "verdict" entirely on statements of the three police officers who were in the car at the time of the shooting and of W. J. Guilian, the white Fairfield grocer who called the police in the first instance.

Arthur Green, county solicitor in the Bessemer cutoff, testified that he had ordered the grand jury to investigate because a committee from Jackson's union (the Steel Workrs Organizing Committee) called on him and asked him to do so. He admitted on cross-examination, however, that not a single colored witness was heard by the grand jury. There were scores of Negroes in the crowd before the Fairfield movie theater who saw Jackson arrested and saw him beaten by the officers before he was placed in the police car.

MIND MADE UP

Solicitor Green also admitted that he had made up his mind about the case before the grand jury "investigation" and before the union committee called upon him. He said that he had made up his mind in advance that Alexander's slaying was justified, on the basis of conferences with Coroner McCollum and with R. B. Ragsdale, his own investigator.

George DeMeritte, a member of the Fairfield police committee, admitted that his committee had heard only testimony from the three officers.

CHARGES "WHITEWASH"

Lawyer Montgomery charged at the Civil Service hearing that Arthur Green, county solicitor in the cut-off, T. J. McCollum, Bessemer coroner, and the Fairfield police committee had all attempted to "whitewash" the case, after hearing evidence from one side only.

Undisputed evidence at the hearing showed that Jackson was arrested and beaten when he laughed aloud while officer Hubert Alexander was trying to clear a crowded sidewalk before a movie theater and that officer Alexander later shot Jackson to death in the police car. Alexander claimed that Jackson drew a knife on him in the police car.

Solicitor Green testified that the Bessemer grand jury "could not understand" why Jackson was not searched at the time of the arrest and asked a lot of questions about it. Alexander told the grand jury, Green said, that the crowd in front of the theater was "getting unruly" and he, Alexander, wanted to get away from there as quickly as possible.

Civil service charges filed against Officer Ed Taylor, who drove the car in which Jackson was killed, and W. R. Grumby, who admitted striking Jackson with his fist at the time of the arrest so hard that he broke two bones in his own hand, were dropped by attorney Montgomery in the course of the hearing.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

STEELMAN AND THE STEEL MEN

Dr. John R. Steelman, who was accepted by both the "Big Steel" operators and the United Mine Workers as the third man on the arbitration committee to decide the issue of a closed shop in the captive mines.

To a man whose career is settling labor disputes, the confidence of both management and labor is his major asset. It is his working capital in a sense. Steelman obviously has enjoyed the confidence of both sides in the past, as well as the confidence of the public.

In accepting this job Steelman has risked the loss of his capital. How he can arrive at any conclusion in the matter without losing the confidence of the union or the confidence of the operators is a mystery. And if he does lose the confidence of either, his career as a labor conciliator will be jeopardized.

Only a few years ago Dr. Steelman was a professor at Alabama College. The Tuscaloosa News recalls that when Secretary of Labor Perkins was at Montevallo to make a commencement address she met Dr. Steelman and shortly afterward he was offered a job in the Conciliation Service of the U. S. Department of Labor.

Dr. Steelman's rise was rapid, and soon he had become the head of the agency. Some remarkable stories of his knack for bringing representatives of labor and management are told, including instances in which he settled difficult strikes by telephone.

An occasion when Dr. Steelman made a trip to Tuscaloosa to observe mob psychology during the aftermath of a lynching is also recalled by The News. Dr. Steelman was mistaken for a "New York lawyer" by some of the crowd he was observing, and for an instant it appeared that he might become a victim of mob violence himself. However, he remained calm and soon was delivering a stern lecture on the elements of decency.

Dr. Steelman will not be frightened by either Lewis or Fairless, The News is convinced. It implies that he will have both boys acting like a couple of high school pals before the thing is over.

But after all the man is a labor conciliator and not a magician. There'll be a howl alright, regardless of the decision.

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The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Fairchild Cops Beat Unionist For Laughing

MAY 2 - 1941

Steel Trust Role Bared in Killing; Number of Victims Mount

By Rob F. Hall

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., May 1. — John Jackson, Negro steelworker of the Fairfield Tennessee Coal and Iron work, and CIO member, was beaten and shot to death by Fairfield police officer Hubert Alexander in a police car while carrying Jackson to jail.

Jackson was one of a crowd of Negro workers standing in front of a Fairfield motion picture house Saturday afternoon when police arrived and ordered them to move on. Jackson, engaged in conversation with a girl friend, did not hear the police, and was laughing and joking with his companion. "What are you laughing at, boy?" demanded the officers. "Nothing. Can't I laugh?" asked Jackson.

With that the officer slapped him, and then struck him over the head with a pistol. The officers closed in on him and, beating him as they went, dragged him to the police car.

MAY 2 - 1941

KILLED IN POLICE CAR

But Jackson never arrived at the police station. Shortly afterwards, his body was taken to the morgue. He had a deep gash on his forehead, four bullet holes in his chest, and his right arm was broken.

Officer Alexander claims that he shot in "self-defense," charging that Jackson attacked him with a pocket knife in the car.

Alexander has so far not attempted to explain how a man with a broken right arm could constitute a menace to two police armed with pistols and clubs.

Jackson is a member of the SWOC local in the TCI Fairfield mills.

It is not difficult to label this crime. It differs fom the the murder of O'Dee Henderson by Fairfield police last spring only in that Henderson was murdered in the police station, while Jackson was not even permitted to reach the station.

STEEL TRUST POLICE

The responsibility for this crime belongs at the door of U. S. Steel's Alabama subsidiary, the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company, which dominates the entire life of the company town of Fairfield, including the police department.

This is simply one more example of the police brutality which goes on day after day in the police stations and throughout the cities of the South.

In Montgomery, on Jan. 18, Dorothy Greenwood, 13-year-old Negro girl was shot by a police officer claiming to "investigate a disturbance" in the Greenwood home. This girl, a bullet in her brain, is living in the twilight zone between life and death, permanently maimed by this unprovoked assault.

In Atlanta, on Feb. 15, William B. Cooper, a Negro plasterer and contractor, was beaten in his home by a police officer. While he was making out his payroll, the officer asked him, "What are you doing with all that money?" Cooper replied, "I don't think that is any of your business."

MAY 2 - 1941

TORTURED BY HOT IRONS

A few days later in Atlanta, the horrible torture of Quinter South, a young Negro, with hot irons by Atlanta police was revealed.

In New Orleans, on Feb. 20, Mrs. Daisy Powell was beaten and kicked by two New Orleans police. They claimed that she knew the whereabouts of some law-violator which, they said, she refused to divulge.

On March 16, in St. Petersburg, Fla., Miss Alzeta Hargray was knocked down and kicked by police for protesting against the beating of a Negro man by a patrolman. She was also fined $50 in court for "disorderly conduct."

Three days later in Meridian, Miss., a Negro taxi driver, whose name we do not have, was beaten and stomped into a bloody pulp. His "crime" was that in a public hearing in court, when another Negro cab driver was given a harsh sentence, he had said, "You know they are doing the colored people wrong in this town."

A little more than a fortnight ago, the uniformed body of Private Felix Hall was found lynched, swinging from a tree near Fort Bennings, Ga.

In all but the last two cases cited above, police officers are openly and directly involved. The addition of the Jackson case emphasizes once more how Franklin D. Roosevelt is defending the "four freedoms" in the South.

MAY 2 - 1941

Resentment against this outrageous condition is rising both among Negroes and whites. Organized protest is being prepared by a number of organizations.

ALABAMA

FOR ORIGINAL LIST of the Police brutality cases see list compiled by T. Rupert Broady for the Southern Negro Youth Congress. Filed under 41-1941

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

File Murder Charges Against Alabama Cops

MAY 2 - 1941

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., May 22—Charges of murder will be preferred against Hubert Alexander, and other members of the police force of Fairfield, Ala., who is accused of having shot and killed John Jackson in Fairfield recently, it was announced this week by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Although public opinion is aroused in favor of prosecution of the officers, NAACP attorneys who are handling the case expect a stiff battle.

Southern News Almanac
Birmingham, Ala.

6644

These Brutal Killings Must Stop!

MAY 1 - 1941

We do not know exactly what happened in those few minutes in a Fairfield police car Saturday night when John Jackson met his death. We do know there was no excuse for his death.

We grant, for argument's sake only, that he pulled a knife. (It is the usual police story but does not check with the usual police procedure of searching a prisoner at the time of arrest.) If he had pulled a knife—would it take a deep gash in the head, four shots in the chest and the breaking of the right arm (not by a bullet) to subdue the prisoner?

From a live, laughing, and happy person, spending a pleasant evening with a girl friend, John Jackson was transformed in the space of a few minutes to a corpse in the morgue. Such things occur, too often, by unavoidable accidents. It is terrible when such things occur at the hands of one's fellow mortals. These fellow mortals were those charged with the duty of preserving law and order.

MAY 1 - 1941

It is even worse that a whole oppressed race lives in constant danger of being a victim of just such brutality in Fairfield. It occurred recently in the death in Fairfield Police Station of O'Dee Henderson. It had occurred before.

By no stretch of the imagination can it be called law and order when this can happen to a well reputed, law abiding citizen. It is no part of democracy. It is unbridled brutality that all good people resent, and that good people must put an end to.

6642

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa

Police Slay Mill Worker For Laughing

MAY 8 - 1941

Birmingham Worker Is Beaten, Shot 4 Times Outside Theatre

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—John Jackson, 30-year-old sheet-mill worker, was brutally murdered by Alabama police on Saturday night, April 26, in Fairfield, Alabama, as he was standing outside a moving picture theatre in Fairfield talking and laughing with a woman companion.

Policeman Hubert Alexander and another member of the police force came up to him and asked, "What are you laughing about, boy?", and Jackson replied, "Why, can't I laugh."

MAY 8 - 1941

And for this "crime" Jackson was brutally beaten, taken to a police car and shot four times in the chest. The police took him to the Whiteside funeral home where he was pronounced dead before a doctor could get to him.

Citizens' groups, voters' leagues, trade unions, and youth organizations are greatly aroused over this vicious crime by the Fairfield police. They are asking for the dismissal and [illegible] of the two policemen held in Af- car and a thorough Fairfield police depart-

Southern News almanac
Birmingham, Ala.

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IT'S THE LAW:

Discussing The Law In The Jackson Case

A reader asked that this column discuss the law involved in the Jackson case.

On Saturday night, April 26, there was a crowd in front of a movie theater in Fairfield. There was a line of white persons buying tickets for the main floor and a line of Negroes buying tickets for a balcony reserved for colored. The sidewalk was crowded, but there were no fights, no disorder.

MAY 15 1941

A police officer came and made the lines move back to the wall to clear the sidewalk. Then John Jackson, a young Negro standing in the line of colored patrons, laughed at something said to him by a companion. The officer, Hubert Alexander, slapped him, beat him with a pistol, and shoved him into a police car driven by another officer. Before the car arrived at the police station, Jackson was dead. He had a broken arm, a deep gash in his head, and four bullets through his chest.

THE law in this case is very simple.

In the first place, the facts as reported above—and they have not been denied—show absolutely no legal excuse for arresting Jackson at all. What offense could Jackson have been charged with? Blocking the sidewalk? The sidewalk had already been unblocked before the arrest was made. Disorderly conduct? There was no disorder until the officer started one.

In the second place, the facts do not show any legal justification for using violence against Jac[illegible]

MAY 15 1941

"In arresting a person for an offense less than a felony . . . an officer . . . has no right to use firearms, unduly to endanger human life, to shed blood, or to shoot or kill the offender to prevent his escape or to overcome his resistance to arrest, even though the offender cannot otherwise be taken . . ." says Corpus Juris Secundum, the standard encyclopedia of the law. (Vol. 6, pages 613-614.)

FELONIES, as we explained in this column last week, are the more serious crimes, such as murder, burglary, robbery, forgery, arson, etc. Not by the wildest stretch of the imagination could Officer Alexander have had any idea of charging John Jackson with a felony.

Finally, what is the law on self-defense? Of course, the law says that any person who is attacked with violence can use violence to defend himself. An officer's right to defend himself if attacked is no different and no broader than that of any private person.

Officer Alexander says that Jackson drew a knife on him. We cannot know whether this is true or not, because the shooting took place in a police car and there were no impartial witnesses present to say what took place. It should be remembered however that the first thing a policeman ordinarily does when he arrests a man is search him for weapons and disarm him.

THE law does not allow an officer, or a private person, to kill any person who attacks him. It allows him to use such means as are necessary in self-defense. It requires him to defend himself without taking life if that is reasonably possible.

The law does not allow any person to provoke an attack on himself and then use that attack as an excuse for homicide. Suppose, for example, I attack my neighbor with a club and he, to protect himself, draws a knife on me and I then shoot him. Can I legally plead "self-defense" on the ground that only by shooting him could I keep from being stabbed? Whether I wore a badge or not, such a case would not constitute a legal case of self-defense.

6642

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Cop Kills Negro in Cold Blood --- Alabama Launches Protest Fight

F-310

JUN 2 1941

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., June 1.—When John Jackson, young Negro CIO steel worker, was murdered by Fairfield policeman Hubert Alexander on April 26, he did not die in vain.

Within three weeks of the wanton killing of the young Negro, a movement to end police brutality and to establish civil liberties for both races is taking shape in the South.

Today, the newly-organized Birmingham Committee Against Police Brutality was able to announce that mass pressure had forced the Jefferson County grand jury to indict H. E. Stokes, Birmingham, for the wounding on April 17 of Nelson Hogan, Negro coal miner, member of the Hamilton Slope local of the United Mine Workers, CIO.

Jackson belonged to a lodge of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, CIO.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Other significant developments in the fight of the Southern people to establish civil liberties were:

1. Clearing up of the kidnapping and beating of I. M. Ritchie, a union organizer, at High Point, N. C.—one of the centers of the new North Carolina third party movement—eight years ago. Three men who took part in the kidnapping—including George Royals, then a police desk sergeant—implicated in signed affidavits a city official, a local Democratic Party boss, and eight members of the High Point police department.

2. Defense of three striking Negro bakery workers, framed on a charge of "disorderly conduct" in Athens, Ga., by a number of University of Georgia students. The three workers were arrested on complaint of their employer after they had struck for wages higher than $12 per week, and sentenced to jail for six months each within three hours of their arrest.

3. An intensified drive on the part of white and Negro people's organizations to pass the Geyer Bill abolishing the poll tax as a requirement for voting. Bishop B. G. Shaw, noted churchman, is chairman of the sponsoring committee for a conference on the poll tax to be held here Saturday, May 31, at the Negro Congregational Church.

"MARCHES ON"

"The soul of John Jackson goes marching on through the South," said Virgil Moncrief, chairman of the recently organized Hamilton Slope Young Southerners Club, and a member of the same United Mine Workers Local as Nelson Hogan, now recovering after having been shot in the back by Dogcatcher Stokes.

"He didn't die for nothing. This fight against police brutality is part of the whole great awakening of the Southern people. John Jackson was a real martyr in the fight to establish real democracy in the South."

Jackson was arrested by Policeman Alexander as he stood talking to a friend in front of a Fairfield movie theatre. There was a line of white persons buying tickets for the main floor and a line of Negroes buying tickets in the jim-crow balcony "reserved" for colored. The sidewalk was crowded with the usual Saturday night movie crowd who were talking and joking but there was no disorder.

BEATEN TO DEATH

Alexander came and made the lines move back to the wall to clear the sidewalk. Then Jackson, standing in the line of colored patrons, laughed at something said to him by a companion. Alexander slapped him, beat him with a pistol, and shoved him into a police car driven by another officer.

Southern News almanac
Birmingham, Ala.

Protests Growing Against Killing Of Jackson By Police

MAY 8 - 1941

A broad movement of public protest is taking form against the brutal killing of John Jackson by Fairfield police over a week ago, according to the Southern Negro Youth Congress, which is giving the protest organizational expression.

Jackson, 30, and called by the draft, was arrested while talking to a girl friend in front of a Fairfield theatre, and was shot to death a few minutes later in the police car.

MAY 8 - 1941

A large number of Negro and white progressives have been contacted with a request to attend a meeting at Room 622 Negro Masonic Temple Building, 17th Street and Foutr Avenue, Birmingham, at 7:30 p.m. Friday night May 9th.

Letters of protest have been sent by the SNYC to Governor Frank M. Dixon, to the Fairfield Chief of Police, to the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company, to numerous papers and to Phillip Murray, chairman of Steel Workers' Organizing Committee, of which Jackson was a member.

A leaflet, distributed by the thousands of SNYC, and giving the facts concerning the killing of Jackson, received welcome reception, according to SNYC officials. The leaflet calls for stopping police brutality and demands that the killers of Jackson be prosecuted.

"This is the truth and it is what is needed," people who read the leaflet have told SNYC. "What is the next step?" they have asked.

"We are giving leadership to the outraged feelings of Negro and white," SNYC officials said.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People have requested the dismissal by the Fairfield Civil Service Board of the police officers present when Jackson was shot.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Fairfield Policeman Dismissed By Board In Slaying Of Negro

Civil Service Personnel Unit Unanimously Votes For Alexander's Dismissal

JUL 9 1941

Dismissal of Officer Hubert Alexander, Fairfield, for the slaying April 26 of John Jackson, Negro, while Jackson was under arrest, was ordered Thursday afternoon by the Civil Service Personnel Board.

The board by unanimous vote held Alexander guilty of charges in a petition filed by a relative of the Negro, and granted the petitioner's request that Alexander be dismissed from the police force.

The petition also asked for the dismissal of Officers W. N. Guidy and Ed Taylor but the board in its findings held both officers not guilty.

Jackson was slain shortly after he was arrested in Fairfield by Officers Alexander and Taylor on charges of using indecent language and resisting arrest. Alexander testified in the hearing Wednesday afternoon before the Personnel Board that he and Taylor ordered a crowd of Negroes blocking a store doorway to move and that Jackson gave an abusive retort.

The officer said he struck the Negro and put him under arrest and that en route to the jail, Jackson pulled a knife on him and he was forced to shoot in self-defense.

Chicago Bee.
Chicago, Illinois

ASK OUSTER OF POLICE IN YOUTH SLAYING

MAY 11 1941

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Citizens groups, voters' leagues, trade unions and youth organizations here this week roundly denounced the brutal murder by police of John Jackson, 30-year-old sheet mill worker who was shot and killed last Saturday night in Fairfield, Ala.

A dismissal from the police force and full investigation is being demanded, together with a thorough cleanup of the Fairfield police department.

Jackson was standing outside of a moving picture theatre talking and laughing with a woman companion. Policeman Hubert Alexander and another member of the police force came up to him and asked: "What are you laughing about, boy?"

Jackson replied, "Why, can't I laugh?" The police jumped on him, witnesses stated, beat him severely and then took him to the police car where he was shot four times. All of the bullets struck him in the chest. Jackson was pronounced dead at the Whiteside Funeral home where he was taken by the officers.

MAY 11 1941

In a letter to the Governor and Attorney General of Alabama, the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, the Southern Negro Youth Congress and the League of Youn Southerners pointed out taht "This is not the first time that Fairfield police officers have been guilty of savage brutality against prisoners, especially Negro prisoners.

"A year ago press and pulpit rung with denunciations of Fairfield police involved in the cold-blooded murder of another Negro steel worker, O'Dee Henderson.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

CRUELLY-BEATEN BODY OF MISSING BLAKEY IS FOUND

NOV 29 1941

Alabama River Yields Montgomery Victim Of Savage Slaying

NOV 29 1941

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Nov. 28—(AP)—The savagely-beaten body of David T. Blakey, 32, member of a widely-known Montgomery family, who left his home Nov. 12 to fill a social engagement, was found Friday in the Alabama River about 15 miles from here in Autauga County.

NOV 29 1941

Coroner M. B. Kirkpatrick said Blakey was slain, but whether he was dead before being placed into the water was not determined, due to the condition of the body. Identity was established by a relative.

The hands were tied together in front with a handkerchief, and Dr. Kirkpatrick said both arms, neck bones and jaw were broken. There was a deep gash on the hand.

The coroner expressed belief some of the wounds might have been caused when the man was thrown from the river bridge several miles upstream from where the body was located.

Blakey's automobile was found burned near Haleyville, in North Alabama, three days after he disappeared and Police Chief Ralph King expressed belief then the young man had met with foul play. Efforts have been made to trace his movements after leaving home, but King said little progress had been made except to learn that Blakey had been seen at a roadhouse, accompanied by an unidentified man and woman.

The Alabama State Highway Patrol said the investigation also was being carried on in North Alabama.

Blakey resided with his mother, Mrs. D. T. Blakey, Sr., and an aunt, Miss Frances Hails, archivist in the Alabama History Department.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

JUSTICE DEMANDED IN POLICE CAR' SLAYING

Official Gives Verbal Answer To Resolution Filed By NAACP

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — (SNS)—Action for justice in the slaying of John Jackson, 30-year-old Fairfield Sheet mill worker, moved nearer reality this week when James H. Hard, civic service personnel director gave a verbal answer to newspapermen in answer to a resolution he had received by mail from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Mr. Hard stated that:

MAY 10 1941

"Section 27 of the civil service act provides that charges may be filed with the Personnel Board against any municipal employe by any officer, citizen or taxpayer. If you desire to file such charges. I assure you that the Personnel Board will take action and that a public hearing will be had as provided by law"

Mr. Hard pointed out to newspaper men that the NAACP resolution did not give the name of the persons involved in the shooting or the time of the occurrence.

Jackson was shot by Officer Hubert Alexander as Jackson reportedly slashed at the officer with a knife, cutting the latter's finger. Jackson was being taken to jail on a "disorderly conduct" charge at the time.

Fairfield Police Chief E. L. Allman termed the shooting "justified" and Bessemer Coroner T. J. McCullum returned a verduct of justifiable homicide.

Officer Alexnder was suspended by Chief Allman shortly after the shooting. He was reinstated May 3 after the public safety council of Fairfield City Council reported in part: "While deplorable, there is no evidence that Officer Alexander was not justified in his action. This is in accord with the findings of the coroner.

MAY 10 1941

Fairfield citizens and many in distant sections have demanded "specific action" in the slaying terming it "another lynching."

Many union locals have indicated their williness to participate in effort to raise funds to see that the case is given a legal hearing and that it gets before the civic service board.

The resolution by the NAACP was carried by this publication Tuesday. "White dailies have almost remained silent on the slaying. A short "item" was carried by a local morning paper the day following the shooting. While another paper carried two letters from readers, both white and none of them from a distant city nothing that would present the facts has been carried "an official stated. It was recalled that nothing was carried concerning a similar slaying by Fairfield officers a year ago in the dailies until the WORLD had exposed the gruesome murder.

MAY 10 1941

Fairfield and NAACP persons investigated the bullet holes in the body and examined the marks on the body declared that Jackson's arm was broken and many gashes had been cut in his head. They were of the opinion that officers continued to beat Jackson after placing him in their car. An investigation was said to be underway to determine who fired several shots heard far out of the direction of the theatre where Jackson was beaten and arrested for the jail. The jail is less than three blocks from the theatre and the shots were heard some fifteen blocks away about the time of the death of Jackson

Statements taken by the Fairfield Mayor have not been made public following his investigation of the case.

MAY 10 1941

The Birmingham Negro Business League and many other organizations and individuals are contributing to the case. Others are asked to report any donations to Dr. Chas. McPherson, secretary of the NAACP Masonic Temple Bldg. Council to push for a court hearing of the case was employed by the NAACP last Saturday.

Southern News
Almanac
Birmingham, Ala.

NEGRO WORKER IS SHOT TO DEATH BY FAIRFIELD POLICE

MAY 1 - 1941

John Jackson, 266-B Fifty-Second Street, Fairfield, was shot to death in a Fairfield police car Saturday night. Jackson had been arrested on a charge of "disorderly conduct." He was shot, it was said, when he threatened the officers with a knife in the police car. Eye witnesses of the arrest and those who viewed the body in the morgue say it is another case of extreme brutality on the part of Fairfield police.

Witnesses told The Southern News Almanac that the sidewalk in front of Fairfield Theatre was crowded with people, Negro and white, lined up to buy tickets for the show. It was about 8 o'clock.

A police car drove up and Officer Hubert Alexander got out and went from one of the crowd to the other having the crowd stand to left and right and clear the way for passers-by. Jackson was in the crowd and had moved over against the wall. He was with a girl friend to whom he was talking.

Officer Alexander had cleared the walk and was on his way back when Jackson laughed at something the girl had said.

The officer said, "What are you laughing at boy?"

MAY 1 - 1941

"I was just laughing," Jackson said, "Cain't I laugh?"

SLAPS JACKSON

At this Officer Alexander slapped Jackson with both hands, right and left, and pulled out his pistol and began to beat him. In the meantime the other officer had gotten out of the police car and the two beat and shoved Jackson into the police car.

He got into the front seat, where the door was open. The officers ordered him to get out and get in the back seat. Jackson seemed dazed and hesitated, but finally got out and got in the back seat on the left hand side of the car. Officer Alexander got in the car on the right hand side, and the other officer drove the car away.

After a while the report was on the street that Jackson was dead.

A few minutes after the arrest he was taken to Whiteside Funeral Home for transfer to a hospital. He was said to be very near death upon arrival at the funeral home.

SHOT 4 TIMES

Upon return of the body to the morgue examination showed Jackson had been shot four times in the region of the chest and his arm was broken, but not by one of the bullets. There was a deep gash in his head, apparently not made by a bullet but by some kind of blow.

MAY 1 - 1941

Jackson was single, approaching his thirty-first birthday, was subject to draft, had been examined, and was said to be preparing to be called Tuesday of this week. His draft papers were said to have been with him when he was taken to the hospital.

Jackson came from West Alabama and had lived in Fairfield for several years. He was a member of the Fairfield Sheet Mill local of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee. People in the community where he lived say "he was very quiet" and not a "rowdy fellow." He was active in church and Sunday School work.

Mrs. Dorothy Maddox, office manager in the store of R. A. Green & Sons, Furniture Company, Fairfield branch, said that Jackson had done business with the firm, has always taken care of his obligations, that "he is the most courteous Negro I have ever known."

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

37 o-1941

CALIFORNIA

CAL. CITIZENS AIR VIEWS OF EFFIGY LYNCHING



The Fremont High school hanging effigy aired again before the Los Angeles School Board. Shown in the background seated are members of the board, Mrs. F ay Allen, Negro member, third from right seated. Standing are three members of the Negro Congress Student F ederation C. I. O. group, who claim that justice has not been done in this case. On the right, standing, is Halley Harding, veteran newspaperman, who was a member of a citizen's committee who investigated the case and who re ported that it had been settled. He further stated that small groups such as those represented here were attemp ting to stir up racial antagonism over a situation that was insignificant when the true facts were known.—Siminoff Photo.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Civic Leader Blames Alien Groups For 'Lynch' Incident

LOS ANGELES, May 22—Claiming that small groups and subversive elements were continuing to harp on a remedied situation, Rev. G. Albert Miller, chairman of the Eastside Citizen's Committee, stated at an open hearing held before the members of the Board of Education last Thursday that the effigy lynching of Negro students at Fremont High school last February had been thoroughly investigated and settled. He further told those assembled that his group had worked with the District Attorney's office and the crime prevention bureau on the case and laid the whole trouble to persons outside the school who had personal motives to cause interracial disturbances.

STUDENT RELATIONS HARMONIOUS

Since this happening, student body presidents of Jefferson and Fremont Highs have acted as exchange speakers. Good will banquets between the institutions have been held, and the athletic rivalry, although keen, has been fair and clean. Several Negro students are now attending the alleged seat of trouble, Fremont High school, and according to this association, are enjoying full rights and privileges.

This citizens' committee originally organized through the efforts of Pacific Coast offices of the Courier, the California Eagle, and Rev. Miller, have worked faithfully during the past years in adjusting Negro problems within the school district and have received the commendation of the school board, the Los Angeles and Pacific Electric Railways, the Coliseum management, and the various law enforcing agencies.

Also on hand at this board meeting were a large group, consisting of some 75 whites and a half dozen Negroes, who claimed to represent the Students Federation, the C. I. O., and the Negro Congress. They protested vigorously that justice had not been done in this case and they asked for a further open hearing. They also demanded the suspension of the principal and the vice principal of Fremont and condemned the action of the police captain at the 77th Street Station who, according to them, stated that he did not have time "to settle the problems of Negroes and poor white trash."

6645

370-1941 D. C. 6785

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Girl's White Lover Lynched, Court Told

MAR 29 1941

WASHINGTON

Two men on trial in District Court for killing a white man, found in a love tryst with an 18-year-old girl, escaped the electric chair, this week, when the jury acquitted one and returned a second-degree murder verdict for the other.

The defendants, Henry Smith, 24, and William Clark. 24, were accused of killing Cornelius R. King, white, a married man of Silver Spring, Md., whose scantily-clad body police found in an alley in the rear of 459½ G Place, Northwest, on the morning of October 1. MAR 29 1941

King had been strangled to death when he was caught in a room with Miss Lena Bell Turpin. Police charged the man had been practically lynched.

Girl Fled

Miss Turpin testified that she ran from the house when King was attacked and knew nothing more about the case.

MAR 29 1941

At a preliminary hearing at the District Morgue, she had testified that King accosted her on the street, and that she had taken him to the G Place number, where they gained entrance through a rear window and engaged in a love escapade.

Smith, who was arrested at his place of employment, wearing a wrist watch which was identified as belonging to King, told the jury that he obtained the watch as security for a $2 loan made on the night of the murder.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

Senator Wants War-Mongering Mates Lynched!

Tydings Of Maryland Bitterly Denounces Belligerency While Soldier Boys Are Untrained For War

NOV 14 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The speech Friday, Nov. 7, of Senator Millard E. Tydings Democrat of Maryland and a commander of troops in the World War, was possibly the most scathing attack on the Roosevelt Administration that has been delivered in Congress this year. It was made in opposition to the Administration's move to get the Neutrality Law repealed so as to allow American ships to be sent into combat zones, delivering war material to foreign nations. Such an effort, Senator Tidings contended, was a dishonest method of getting the nation into war and would rush America into the European war unprepared to fight on even terms with Germany. NOV 14 1941

Bitterly criticising fellow Senators who had made speeches pretending that sending American ships into war zones was a way to keep out of war, Senator Tidings held that such Senators were indulging in unadulterated hypocrisy.

"Any one who votes for complete repeal and who is not in favor of war by this country against Germany, Italy and possible Japan, is so devoid, in my judgment, of mental processes as to be a fit subject for a lunatic asylum," he stated.

"If Congress votes to put this country into war without giving the men who will do the fighting and dying the support they should have, then the biggest lynching party that ever descended upon any capital should string our carcusses as ornaments on the telegraph poles of Washington."

With full knowledge of the woeful state of unpreparedness of the United States to engage now in a shooting war in Europe, Senator Tydings denounced the Administration for its acts of aggression, contending that American ships which had been sunk, with the loss of many lives, resulted from the unwarranted act of the President in sending these ships on a "shot on sight" mission. In failing to ask Congress for the right to send ships on the shooting venture on the high seas, the Senator stated that Mr. Roosevelt had treated the law-making body of the government as if it were a bunch of children.

To continue the undeclared war policies of the Administration, the Senator contended, would be "treason to God, treason to brotherhood, treason to our form of government and treason to the men who wear the uniform of our country."

"We have twisted Hitler's tail on the floor of the Senate and in the White House. We have started a shooting war without legal sanction while our little army of a million and a half men walk up and down, up and down, with beer trucks for tanks, wooden clubs for machine guns and with imaginary anti-aircraft guns to hold off the mightiest military force in the history of the world."

Senator Tidings referred caustically to President Roosevelt's pledge of October 30, 1940 in which the President gave a solemn pledge to the mothers and fathers of the nation that their sons would not be sent into any foreign wars and then quoted from the record to prove this pledge had already been violated. He cited the case of recently attacked American vessels, stating that he had read the confidential reports on these attacks and they showed that the United States was the agressor in each case, and, said the Senator, "yet when these incidents first happened the public was led to believe the American ships were proceeding innocently when they were fired upon by the German submarines.

"Every one here knows," the Senator shouted, "that under the Constitution Congress has sole and exclusive and absolute power of declaring war. The President in the pure Hitlerian technique arrogated to himself the complete power of Congress. War was declared by executive fiat and not by the chosen representatives of the people. "The President did not come before the Congress and ask for the authority to order our ships to shoot. He snapped his fingers at this body for he has learned long since that we no longer have a Congress of 531 representatives and that we may do what he wishes whether the power be conferred upon him to take such action or not. NOV 14 1941

"Now we have an executive war, not a national war. Thus while we are going to make the world safe for democracy elsewhere, we are proceeding rapidly to make it unsafe at home."

Senator Tyding paid an eloquent tribute to two of his fellow Senators who, like himself, went through the bitter experiences of the other World War and who are now fighting to keep America out of the present war in Europe. These were Senators C. Wayland Brooks, Republican of Illinois and Bennett Champ Clark, Democrat of Missouri.

"I know these men," said Senator Tyding, "recall the stern days of 23 years ago when men with whom we shared a cigaret or a beef steak or a can of cold tomatoes were shortly thereafter killed or shot to pieces."

He told of how men were sent to France in the other World War without the necessary arms to give them an even chance with the enemy and without proper training. Also how many of these young men's lives were needlessly sacrificed because of this unpreparedness. In the battle of the Argonne, he stated, some of the men who went into the attack had been in the army less than four months.

"We left lots of those fellows over there," the Senator continued. "We would scour the fields at night and get in the bodies that we could not get in during the daytime. These we lined up along the road in scores and we threw overcoats over their faces until a trench 18 inches deep could be dug, their bodies placed therein—and the mound and wooden crosses completed the obituaries."

The significant thing about Senator Tydings speech was that he has been an ardent supporter of all of the Administration's measures as long as they were labeled "aid, short of war." Now that it appears the Administration has gone into an undeclared war, Senator Tydings like a great majority of the veterans of the World War, has enlisted to fight against President Roosevelt.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Lynching Is Tragedy of Errors

NOV 18 1941
NOV 22 1941

WASHINGTON.

How the children of an injured woman not only participated in the virtual lynching of the wrong man, but discovered later that the attack they avenged had never been committed, was revealed at a coroner's inquest here Monday.

The jury probing the death of Robert Scott, 42, of 826 Tenth Street. Northeast, who was fatally beaten on Friday evening, heard unravelled a tragedy of errors such as had not been heard in police circles for many years.

Two Face Grand Jury

Accused of the slaying were: Joseph Bell, 16, of 1637 Rosedale Street, Northwest; Eugene Patterson, 17, of the 800 block of Tenth Street. Northeast, both of whom were held for grand jury action; and Miss Agnes Bell, 23, of the 600 block of Callan Street, Northeast, who was exonerated.

According to testimony of Detective C. C. Carver of the homicide squad, the trio were informed by one Joseph Johnson that Mrs. Marie Bell had been assaulted with a fence rail and was confined to a hospital after her assailant had attempted to rape her.

Left Dying

The children of Mrs. Bell, Joseph and Agnes Bell, accompanied by Patterson, a friend, went to the home of Robert Scott and, calling him from the house, allegedly beat him unmercifully and left him for dead. propped up against a wall.

Found there later, Scott was taken to Casualty Hospital, where he died several hours later.

No Assault Occurred

It developed later that Mrs. Bell had not been assaulted at all, but was in Casualty Hospital as the result of an automobile accident.

It was disclosed that Scott, the victim, was in no way involved, that the car had been operated by another man of similar name, Gordon Scott, of 608 Thirteenth Street, Northeast, according to police records.

NOV 22 1941

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FLORIDA

6786

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

REVEAL NEGRO LYNCHED ON GOV'T PROJECT

FEB 2 1941

The lynching of a Negro worker on an army construction project is reported for the first time by The Militant, weekly labor newspaper.

The story, sent to The Militant by a trusted associate who is now at the scene, will be published in its entirety in the February 1 issue. (Editor's Note.)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., January 21.—A Negro worker employed on a government project at Camp Blanding was murdered in cold blood by a gang of Georgia whites on Wednesday, January 8. It happened as follows:

A white laborer lost his shovel. Each laborer is charged $5 if he loses a shovel. The white "replaced" his lost shovel by taking one away from a Negro.

FEB 2 1941

When the Negro laborer discovered this, and asked to have it back, pointing to the markings on the shovel proving that it belonged to him, the white assaulted him for doubting his word and was immediately joined by a gang of Georgia whites with hatchest, hammers and pinchbars.

The Negro did not have a chance. He died that same day at the hospital. He was mutilated beyond recognition and his skull was fractured.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Lynching Of Negro Worker On U. S. Government Defense Project In Florida Reported By Labor Paper

FEB 1 1941

The unpunished lynching of a Negro worker on an army construction project is reported for the first time by The Militant, weekly labor newspaper, organ of the Socialist Workers' Party.

The story, sent to The Militant by a trusted associate who is now at the scene, will be published in its February 1 issue as follows:

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—Jan 21.—A Negro worker employed on a government project at Camp Blanding was murdered in cold blood by a gang of Georgia crackers on Wednesday, January 8. It happened as follows:

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When the Negro laborer discovered this, and asked to have it back, pointing to the markings on the shovel proving that it belonged to him, the white assaulted him for doubting his word and was immediately joined by a gang of Georgia whites with hatchets, hammers and pinchbars.

The Negro did not have a chance. He died that same day at the hospital. He was mutilated beyond recognition and his skull was fractured.

It should be pointed out that a great number of these white workers at the camp are really farmers who have recently been recruited into the workers' ranks by the lure of war construction work.

It goes without saying that there was no mention of this cold-blooded murder anywhere in the press, nor was there any sort of investigation by the authorities.

Liberals and New Dealers point with pride to the diminishing number of lynchings in the South to show that democracy in these United States does work. This may be true if the definition of lynching is confined to the classical method of stringing the man up on a rope by his neck. But most lynchings now are not "classical."

How many lynchings of this kind are committed? No one knows. They are not recorded anywhere, except in the consciousness of the Negro.

I heard an eye-witness account of the murder at Camp Blanding that same day. The following day I approached a Negro laborer to find out from him the name of the murdered man and to probe his feelings in the matter.

When he found out I was from the North and a friend, he spoke frankly. I asked him what he was going to do about it.

"Sir," he said, "down here when a white man kills a colored man, he's just another dead nigger."

I suggested that a day will come when the Negro people will find their revenge. He brightened up and said, "Yes, sir, every dog has his day."

This worker spent hours trying to get for me the name of the murdered man. All he could find out is that he is a Jacksonville resident. Nobody knows names around here. They go by numbers on the job.

The white and the Negro laborers are kept divided as a matter of policy. The whites are given the easier jobs and all the dirty work is done by the Negroes. This gives the white laborer the feeling that he is one step higher on the social ladder.

Mind you, all this occurs at a camp which is owned and administered by the federal government to train our youth to "defend democracy." The minute I saw the camp I was impressed by the total absence of Negroes among the soldiers. Only later I found out that there is a separate section under construction for the Negroes.

What will these Negroes be told after they are stationed in their Jim Crow section? What will be the definition of the democracy they are supposed to defend?

It was learned from the Peru Company that [illegible] telephone call warned of impending trouble if union men were not used on the job.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Mob Beats Two Carpenters On Defense Job

B 370

JAN 29 1941

KEY WEST, FLA., Jan. 28.—(U.P.)—An armed and hooded mob of approximately 200 persons made an early morning attack on the sleeping quarters of a defense housing project here today beating up two carpenters and threatening others.

Edward Walker, building superintendent, said the [illegible] hooded men appeared at the sleeping quarters of the workers brandishing guns, clubs and rocks. He said two carpenters, Fred Nunnally and W. Parry, ran for their car and attempted to flee toward Miami.

Walker said some of the invaders fired shots at the two men and caught them along the Overseas Highway connecting this island with the mainland.

An appeal has been made to Gov. Spessard L. Holland for protection of workers employed at the housing unit, it was reported tonight.

The workers were employes of the Lester Peru Company, of Miami. They made up the vanguard of men working of a $400,000 housing unit for defense.

The construction job was said to be an "open shop" affair. It was reported that a dynamite explosion had rocked the area near the project Tuesday night.

Clarence Higgs, business agent of the Carpenters Union, denied all knowledge of the attack. However,

MAN SAID TO HAVE BEEN FATALLY ATTACKED BY MOB OF WHITE WORKERS

OVER OWNERSHIP OF A SHOVEL

Eye Witness Tells of the Brutal Attack

JAN 30 1941

Jacksonville, Fla. Jan. 21 — A Negro worker employed on a government project at Camp Blanding was murdered in cold blood by a gang of Georgia whites on Wednesday, January 8. It happened as follows:

A white laborer lost his shovel. Each laborer is charged $5.00 if he loses a shovel. The white "replaced" his lost shovel by taking one away from a Negro.

When the Negro laborer discovered this, and asked to have it back, pointing to the markings on the shovel proving that it belonged to him, the white assaulted him for doubting his word and was immediately joined by a gang of Georgia whites with hatchets, hammers and pinchbars.

The Negro did not have a chance. He died that same day at the hospital. He was mutilated beyond recognition and his skull was fractured.

It should be pointed out that a great number of these white workers at the camp are really farmers who have recently been recruited into the workers' ranks by the lure of war construction work.

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[illegible] ON GOV-
[illegible] PROJECT

[illegible]
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What will these Negroes be told after they are stationed in their Jim Crow section? What will be the definition of the democracy they are supposed to defend?

FEB 1 1941

Whites Lynch Afro-Worker at Fla. Military Camp

Baltimore, Md

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The recent lynching of a laborer employed on a Government construction project at Camp Blanding, near here, by white fellow workmen, is reported by The Militant, weekly organ of the Socialist Workers' Party.

The victim, whose name could not be learned due to unwillingness of whites and fear of colored workers to talk, was beaten to death with hatchets, hammers and pinchbars on January 8, the report states, and no investigation has been attempted by authorities. Afro

The paper's correspondent gives the following explanation of the cause of the crime:

Sought Stolen Shovel

"A white laborer lost his shovel. The white man 'replaced his by taking one from a colored man.

"When the latter discovered this, and asked to have it back, pointing to the markings on the shovel as proof that it belonged to him, the white man assaulted him for doubting his word and was immediately joined by a gang of other whites.

"The victim did not have a chance. He died that same day at the hospital. He was mutilated beyond recognition and his skull was fractured."

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Fear Lynching of Negroes Freed By High Court

Four Are Rearrested by Florida County Sheriff Following Reversal of 'Rape' Conviction; Lawyer Seeks Protection for Them

JAN 3 1941

(Special to the Daily Worker)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Jan. 2.—Despite the action of the U. S. Supreme Court upholding their freedom, the four Negro defendants in Florida's "little Scottsboro" case have been rearrested and are in danger of being lynched.

The four young men, Charles Davis, Jack Williamson, Walter Woodard and Izell Chambers, were originally convicted on a trumped-up charge of "rape." In its review of the case the Supreme Court declared that there was insufficient evidence for a conviction. The defendants had been freed previously by a ruling of the Circuit Court of the 15th Florida District on Dec. 11 which threw out the case because Negroes were barred from the jurry.

Immediately after the decision of the Supreme Court, Sheriff Walter Clark of Broward County, a notorious Negro-baiter, had the four defendants rearrested.

Lynch terror in the section is increasing. Attorney McGill who is representing the four Negro youths fears to have them removed to the county jail in Broward without an escort of troops. He indicated he will seek a writ of habeas corpus.

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New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Fear Lynching Of 4 Freed By High Court

JAN 18 1941

Fla.—(CNA)—the action of the U. S. Supreme Court upholding their free-

New Republic
New York, N. Y.

Good Sense from the USCC

One of the bright spots of the past week is the thoroughly sensible report of the Committee on Manufactures of the United States Chamber of Commerce, on anti-strike legislation. The committee takes note of the fact that powerful interests are now trying to get laws enacted that will forbid strikes in defense industries. It opposes any such measure.

FEB 10 1941

In the first place, the committee feels that these laws violate fundamental rights of citizens. Second, it believes there is no necessity for any such thing. Labor and employers in the defense industries are on the whole coöperating admirably, it says. The press is greatly overplaying whatever disputes do occur, putting big black headlines on the stories and apparently trying to build up a lynch-sentiment against labor in the community. But in fact, the committee says, disputes are being successfully and promptly settled about 99 percent of the time. Third, the middle of an emergency is no time to try to rewrite the labor policy of the United States. The committee might have added that experience all over the world indicates that attempts to increase production by force are of no avail, except possibly if you are prepared to shoot people for failure to obey, and even then the results are doubtful.

In the past, we have not often found occasion to agree with the report of any committee of the USCC. This one is so sensible that our hat is in the air. We only hope that the Chamber as a whole will prove as wise as its special committee.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

FREEDOM OF THE AIR

OCT 4 1941

THE AIRPLANE WILL LINK THE DARKER RACES TOGETHER

BY JOSEPH D. BIBB

HOW high up in the air does a man own? That was the classical query propounded by Lord Ellenborough centuries ago. Jurists, legal philosophers and law-makers are still confused and confounded by that same interrogatory. The world is now thrown into consternation over the "freedom of the seas" but in the "Freedom of The Air" above the seas and into the vaulting skies, is a vital, burning issue that holds the fate of the darker races of the earth within its grasp. This writer devoutly believes that when we are able to "fly thru the air with the greatest of ease" that then and then only, will we be able to take our place with the dominant races of the world.



Mr. Bibb

When the present great war shall come to an end and hostilities have ceased and this will surely come to pass, for all things always come to an end, men will then sit down quietly and muse and meditate over the astounding realization that the air over the seas has been conquered, hemispheres bridged and space annihilated. The Dive-Bombers, the Stukas, the Spitfires, the Hurricanes and the other aeronautical implements of death and destruction will have demonstrated just how close together and accessible are the peoples of the earth who now seem so far flung and apart. The darker races will inevitably be drawn closer together and there will be a welding and fusing together of common interests. There will be no earthly means nor methods whereby the darker races will be kept out of the air and separate and apart from each other. "Modern Design" in the air will awaken the darker races of South America, Asia, Africa, the United States as well as the Islands of the Sea just as sure as the Sun rises and sets. No human force can stop it.

LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

Let us take a Tennysonian dip into the future and let us peer as far as the human mind permits and then let us pin a star of hope in the dim, blue horizon. Do we not see ourselves "in the glorious U. S. A. "Flying Down to Rio?" We have a "Good Neighbor Policy" with the Latin American countries. President Roosevelt has said so. We have lots in common with the people south of the Equator because under the doctrines of Hitler and Lindbergh, they are non-Aryan and thereby classed with us.

Brazil with its polygot people will soon learn and know that its interests lies with us the dark-skinned Americans. Eucador knows it now as does Cuba and the denizens of the Pampas regions who have been so cruelly and ruthlessly exploited by blonde, blue-eyed capitalists. The airplane will link the Americas and with a few years, we will be able to fly to Brazil within a few hours. Dakar, in Africa, is so close to South America that the Allies are trembling because of its proximity. The air lanes are bringing America right next door to Africa. Everybody knows that the resources of South America and Africa have been hardly tapped and that virtually there are acres of diamonds to be uncovered. The airplanes will aid us in eventually getting our share of the treasures of the earth.

CAN'T JIM-CROW AIRLANES

The airplane is mechanically no more complicated than the automobile and everybody knows that there are thousands of "alley mechanics" in this country of black skin who can tear an engine down and rebuild it with astonishing skill and acumen. Yet this department well remembers that Negroes in the south were lynched for buying motor cars. That did not prevent us from securing more than our share of these self-moving miracles. The automobile made it possible for us to see America. The airplane will make it possible for us to see the entire world. Regardless of the evil machinations of our shrewd, scheming enemies, we do not believe that they can jim-crow the air lanes against us. Altho we would not be surprised if the denizens of Dixie would not attempt to do so with the aid of anti-aircraft guns and bombers. The Freedom of The Air, nevertheless, will be our heritage.

In this opinion, we see a sparkling rainbow being flung upon the present seething international tempest. In this realization, we see a gleaming ray of hope for our people. It behooves us to rededicate ourselves into the struggle to get into the Air Corps of the nation and to become air-minded in our thinking. There is no cause for despair.

Churchill said when he succeeded the unfortunate Chamberlain, that all he had to offer his people was, "Toil, Tears, Sweat and Blood." These are the things that will bring us salvation and deliverance. Let us get into the skies.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

News Briefs

Lynch Picture Wins Carnegie Award

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—(SNS)—A pathetic study of a colored family cutting down a lynching victim, termed by its painter as "in a larger way symbolic of all the tragic sadness of the black man," Friday displayed the first prize plaque at Carnegie Institute's All-American Art Exhibition.

For the second straight year the 45-year-old Carnegie exhibition was limited to American painters because of the war.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Fugitive from Lynch Mob Flees Here from Georgia

MAY 3 - 1941

If 27-year-old Henry E. Lynch had remained in his native Georgia another two weeks, the NAACP and other organizations would probably be investigating another lynching.

And, if Lynch was an author, he'd perhaps be writing a best-seller that would surpass even "Native Son." Such a novel could be truthfully entitled: "Fugitive From A Lynch Mob," for Lynch, a drug store porter-clerk, was forced to leave home two weeks ago because certain whites had threatened to get him.



Mrs. Henry Lynch and her baby, Yvonne, are shown as they appeared recently on the grounds of Newnan, Ga.'s colored hospital which was erected with federal funds. The woman's husband is living in Mt. Vernon after being forced to leave his native home in fear of a lynch mob.

Before leaving, he was arrested twice in his hometown of Newnana, Ga., which is 32 miles from Atlanta, for speeding and passing a red light on a bicycle.

He got out of that all right, after paying a fine, but a Deputy Sheriff's brother met him on the street, near McCalla's Drug Store where he worked, four weeks ago and accused him of waving at a white woman. Lynch denied it, but it mattered little to the white man who pulled a blackjack and beat him until other whites stopped it.

Thereafter, Lynch made his way to Atlanta where he lived for a few days before coming to Mt. Vernon, up in Westchester County. He's staying with a friend, Charles Townes, 135 Fourth St., until he is able to send back for his wife, Carrie Lou, and the couple's 4-months-old baby, Yvonne.

MAY 3 - 1941

Fortunately, he has been able to get a few odd pobs while friends and NAACP officials complete their investigation of the case and arrange for Lynch's family to be brought here.

About employment, even though temoprary, he says: "Lots of people call it luck, but I call it Divine Providence. I got a job the first day I got off the train in Mt. Vernon."

Hhis employer and a few of the mill city's wealtheir whites gave him money to leave, Lynch said, "and I intend to see to it that they are paid in full for having helped to save me from being lynched."

How did he know they were going to get him? "Well," drawled the Georgian, "a few whites and plenty of colored people told me that several cars carrying white men had been seen in our section looking over my house. They were supposed to get me the Saturday night before I left.

"I figured to myself that they would burn my house down, killing the whole family, so I thought it better to leave and possibly spare the wife and baby. I asked certain friends to be sure to tell everybody I was gone."

That, it is reasoned, saved Mrs. Lynch and the baby. As for the wanted Mr. Lynch, he has agreed to start all over again here in New York, if he is able to get his family out of Newnan before any physical harm is done.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Congress Urges Investigation Of Jail "Lynching"

AUG 24 1941

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama—The Southern Negro Youth Congress in a letter to Governor Eugene Talmadge of Georgia demanded an investigation with the findings made public within thirty days of the killing of Arthur Johnson in the Cordele, Georgia, Police Station.

The Youth Congress further asked that the guilty police officers be brought to trial and the state of Georgia pay an indemnity to the victim's family. Individuals and organizations are urged to write to the Attorney General requesting an immediate investigation of this vicious crime, immediate passage of the Anti-Lynching Bill, and cash indemnity to Johnson's family.

AUG 24 1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Demand Talmadge Open Probe of Negro Killing

AUG 25 1941

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Aug. 24.—The Southern Negro Youth Congress in a letter to Governor Eugene Talmadge of Georgia demanded an investigation with the findings made public within 30 days of the killing of Arthur Johnson in the Cordele, Georgia, Police Station.

The Youth Congress demanded that the guilty police officers be brought to trial and the state of Georgia pay an indemnity to the victim's family.

Individuals and organizations are urged to write to the Attorney General requesting an immediate investigation of this vicious crime, immediate passage of the Anti-Lynching Bill, and cash indemnity to Johnson's family.

AUG 25 1941

The letter to the governor says: "The streamlined lynching of Arthur Johnson in the office of the Chief of Police in Cordele, Georgia on May 24, has just become known to the public. Although local newspapers have declared that Johnson's death was caused as a result of 'resisting arrest,' authoritative reports have come to us stating that he was first beaten and then killed by 'officers of the law.' Johnson, the father of four children, was picked up by the police because of a debt he owed of seven dollars. Put in jail, he was beaten severely by police officers, and while trying to ward off their blows, was shot seven times, causing his immediate death.

AUG 25 1941

TALMADGE FASCISM

"This is only one of a series of attacks upon the Negro people in the state of Georgia in the past few months. Following on the heels of this gruesome crime, the torture methods of the Georgia prison system have been revealed. Your edict banning all but Arayan text books in the libraries of schools and the purging of the school faculties of all but those who subscribe to the race theories of Hitler and the KKK is a disgrace to the nation and once again demonstrates the genuine service which you are rendering to Hitler.

"We urge you to stop such evil practices and to guarantee full citizenship to the Negro people in the state of Georgia. We are asking for an immediate investigation with the findings made public within 30 days, that the guilty officers be brought to trial, and an indemnity paid to Johnson's family."

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

YOUTH CONGRESS IN LETTER RAPS GOVERNOR'S ACT

AUG 30 1941

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—The Southern Negro Youth Congress in a letter to Governor Eugene Talmadge of Georgia demanded an investigation with the findings made public within 30 days of the killing of Arthur Johnson in the Cordele, Georgia Police Station. The Youth Congress further asked that the guilty police officers be brought to trial and the state of Georgia pay an indemnity to the victim's family. Individuals and organizations are urged to write to the attorney general requesting an immediate investigation of this vicious crime, immediate passage of the Anti-Lynching Bill, and cash indemnity to Johnson's family. The letter follows:

Called Streamlined Lynching

"The streamlined lynching of Arthur Johnson in the office of the chief of police in Cordele, Georgia, on May 24, has just become known to the public. Although local newspapers have declared that Johnson's death was caused as a result of 'resisting arrest,' authoritative reports have come to us stating that he was first beaten and then killed by 'officers of the law'. Johnson, the father

of four children, was picked up by the police because of a debt he owned of seven dollars. Put in jail, he was beaten severely by police officers and while trying to ward off their blows, was shot seven times causing his immediate death.'

"This shooting does not end with Johnson. His widow is unable to work because of an illness, and his oldest daughter, 14, has been forced to do domestic work at pitifully low wages. This crime has deeply shocked all fair minded people of the South. The killing of this young father is a dreadful crime as it stands alone. It becomes even more dreadful when we realize how such a crime leads to disunity and unharmonious relations in our country and gives comfort to Hitler and the forces of Hitlerism in our own country. This act performed by the Georgia police who have used the same methods as Hitler's 'storm troopers' is indicative of Hitlerism in Georgia itself."

One of Series of Attacks

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Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

ONE WORD MORE

By RALPH McGILL.

CALL THE REV. KENT It ought to be a very good illustration of how impossible it is to shock the moral character of the state that no one seemed to get upset when the Governor of the state announced, in speaking kindly of Ku Klux Klan floggers, that he himself had once participated in a flogging.

Georgia has got used to being shocked. I kept wondering how the boys who insist newspapers should not print any of the bad publicity news felt about this revelation by the Governor. They felt, all right, I reckon. They never mentioned it.

The Governor said, in praising the motives of the convicted floggers whom he proposes to pardon or parole, that he himself was mixed up in a similar sort of case. The only difference seems to have been, he said, that he "got his off in the daytime." The convicted men he proposes to release did their flogging in the nighttime.

The Governor did have more courage, or more assurance of safety, than the craven cowards he proposes to release. They did their flogging at night and they picked on helpless persons, as floggers always do. They resorted to extreme cruelty, as sadists always do.

It was a foul nest of cruelty and beast-like actions that was broken up by these convictions. These men were convicted by juries which heard the evidence. The judges who sat on the case judged the evidence. They were guilty and so found by a jury.

The Governor asks that a number of preachers be brought up this week when the hearing is to be held. He wants preachers to speak for them so that it may go in the record.

Well, I hope they call the Rev. Kent.

THE REV. GRADY KENT I hope the Rev. Kent is there to speak his piece. I recall there were a few preachers in the section where this foul nest of men operated, who preached about the glories of the Ku Klux Klan. We can imagine what they think.

NOV 2 2 1941

The Rev. Kent is a Holiness preacher. He never went to a seminary and he knows nothing about the Greek roots and the fancy translations of the books of the Bible. As far as I know, the Lord may smile on his religion as much as He does on the expensive choirs and the more poetic sermons to be heard elsewhere.

I know that the tents and the small churches of the Holiness church dot the scenes all over Georgia.

The Rev. Kent had been holding a protracted meeting in his small church in Eagan Park and he was getting the crowds. He probably was taking away some attendance and collections from the official preachers of the Ku Klux gang in that section; a gang so bad the Klan itself couldn't stand the smell and had to suspend the charter.

He received some threats saying he and his congregation were praising the Lord too loudly. County police chased away a car which was cruising up and down in front of his church one night.

I don't know who got him. But some of "the boys" did. They called him out of a small restaurant, the big, brave men that they were, and they took him out to a woods near Conley. There, another car joined the big, brave men and all of them beat him while he was handcuffed and tied up. He was whipped into unconsciousness. During the beating the men were cursing him and his church and telling him to leave town. They left him unconscious. They had served as judge and jury and there was no man to parole or pardon Preacher Kent. I hope he is there to speak up when they ask what preachers think about releasing floggers.

The Governor asked for preachers to be on hand.

I think it would be fine if the preacher of every one of Atlanta's big, powerful churches would be there and say not to release these convicted floggers and turn them back on the helpless ones of their community. If they aren't there they can let the Governor know what preachers of Atlanta think about it.

He asked to know!

GHOST OF IKE GASTON I wish, too, the ghost of Ike Gaston could be there and speak up and say what Ike Gaston thinks about it.

NOV 2 2 1941

They never did find out who beat Ike Gaston to death.

He was beaten to death and his body left in a frost-covered field, beaten by men whose character is lower than that of the lowest beast.

What, I wonder, would Ike Gaston say about the proposal to pardon or parole these men convicted of beating other men?

His wife did not want him beaten. His children didn't. Ike was a barber who got drunk on occasion. They, the brutes, decided to beat him to death for that. They did it, too.

His wife wept and his fatherless children wept.

Yes, I wish the ghost of Ike Gaston could be there to tell how 10 or 11 men held him and beat him simply because they had intimidated the law, or were themselves deputies.

These men convicted have flogged other men.

The Governor calmly says their motives were good. The boys were just a little hasty. Why, beating a man is nothing. The law, of course, is there to care for any man who violates it. But the Governor says a flogging is nothing. He himself took part in something like that. He asked that some preachers be on hand to testify.

I hope they are there—from Atlanta's big churches where huge congregations worship God and testify to their faith in the teachings of Jesus Christ. And—vote.

Who is there to speak for the poor and the helpless victims of the floggers?

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

"In A Thing Of That Sort – Once"

In the case of the East Point floggers in which the Parole Board refused to recommend commutation, according to press reports, the Governor, in a promise to have a sympathetic hearing, remarked . . . "I was in a thing of that sort once."

NOV 23 1941

What Governor Talmadge meant by the blanket—"a thing of that sort", would lead to many suggestions. Things of that sort have been those lawless activities carried on outside the law in this and some other states that have brought us to the chagrin and utter embarrassment respon sible for our loss of prestige, population and good offices to hold our heads up and condemn the sins of other peop es and nations.

Things of this sort have been night-riding, lynching parties and the attendant whitewashes which failed to identify the lawless participants or to return a creditable indict ment for the punishment of those comprising the hooded gangs.

When the governor of a state, clothed in the vestry of civil administration, with at his beck and call the sacred function of the law, stands up and gives this type of sanction to the lawlessness responsible for the beating to death of Ike Gaston, there is occasion for loud lamentations.

370-1941

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Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

HOME WORK FOR F. D. R.

APR 25 1941

When the lifeless body of a human being is found hanged to a tree, with arms tied behind it, with legs bound together, and the body is found in the state of Georgia, you can bet your bottom dollar the person has been lynched.

Anybody who makes out a report on a case of this kind and says that death "might have resulted from SUICIDE", is trying to be facetious about a tragically dangerous matter.

And yet, according to report, the lifeless body of Private Felix Hall, an Alabama Negro boy, who volunteered to serve his country as a soldier and was in camp at Ft. Benning, Ga., in training, was found in the above described condition last week. According to report, Provost Marshall Laux has made a statement in which he surmises Private Hall may have committed suicide.

APR 25 1941

The Provost Marshall's report indicates beyond any doubt that there is something awfully rotten—not in Denmark, but in Georgia and at Fort Benning, thereof. Any humor to be gotten from this sad and depressing case will be expressed by Adolph Hitler. He can read of it in connection with President Roosevelt's recent high-sounding decision to provide four very desirable freedoms for people everywhere in the world.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

PRIVATE HALL WAS MURDERED A R M Y BELIEVES

MAY 9 1941

MAY 9 1941

Say Investigation Of Ft. Benning Soldier's Death Being Made By Government

FORT BENNING, GA., May 2 (ANY)—Lt. Col, Herbert B. Laux Ft. Benning provost marshal, stated Tuesday that the investigation the military police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are making jointly into circumstances surrounding the death of Pvt. Felix Hall, Co. E. 24th infantry, last February, has produced no convincing evidence of murder, although it is his personal opinion that Hall was murdered.

MAY 9 1941

Hall's fully clothed body was found on March 28 dangling over a cliff on the reservation, with one end of a rope around the neck and the other tied to a sapling near the top of the gulley. The feet were bound together with wire and the hands were loosely tied to the body. The gulley was located in a little frequented wooded area adjacent to that part of the post in which the barracks of the 24th infantry, a colored organization, are situated.

Discovery of the body was made by soldiers of the [illegible] Engineer regiment while engaged in a combat training exercise. The man apparently had been dead for several weeks, as the body was badly decomposed.

MAY 9 1941

Positive identification, otherwise impossible, was made after finger prints had been taken and checked with FBI records in Washington. Hall, whose home had been in Montgomery, was last seen in his organization on Feb. 12, and was marked absent without leave the next day.

Col. Laux stated that the FBI has had two investigators on the case for sometime, and that one of his officers assistants is devoting most of his time to it.

He said that in his opinion Hall was alive when his body was suspended over the cliff. The feet were several inches above normal ground level. They touched lightly soil apparently deposited under them as it dropped from the side of the gulley when Hall struggled to obtain a foothold. When the dirt was removed a piece of wire and a small piece of rope, similar to those on the body, were found under it.

A thorough check of Hall's background has failed to reveal any acquaintances of his or circumstances tending to fix responsibility for the death.

MAY 9 1941

Maj. Gen. Lloyd R. Fredendall, commanding general of Fort Benning, has closely followed the progress of the long investigation. He restated Friday his determination to continue it indefinitely unless clues now being followed provide a solution.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Dodge County Man Escapes Lynching Wednesday Night

370

EASTMAN, Ga. (SNS)—Because he wouldn't confess to an assault charge, 28-year-old Eddie Lee Spivey was returned to Dodge county jail late Wednesday night by a mob of between 500 and 700 persons in what was believed an unprecedented action.

Deputy Sheriff G[illegible] Lewis said Spivey was dragged from the jail and whisked out of town at the head of a line of some 100 automobiles. He had been jailed for an attempted assault upon a 65-year-old white woman in the Mt. Ariat section Tuesday night.

The Eastman mob began forming shortly afternoon Wednesday grew from 500 to 700 persons Wednesday night and a section stormed the jail, guarded by half a dozen county officers.

Taken to a secluded spot and reportedly beaten that he might confess the crime, Spivey refused and was so convincing in his "not guilty" claim that the mob returned him to jail about midnight Wednesday "for want of evidence."

He is being held on grand jury action on a charge of attempted assault of the white woman.

Sheriff Lewis said Spivey had been beaten but not seriously. He stated it was his understanding that Spivey "wouldn't confess and the crowd didn't feel they could lynch him."

Contacted Thursday, President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute, where records on lynchings are kept, said the Eastman occurrence was unprecedented as far as he knew.

Augusta Ga. Herald
August 17, 1941

TME MEMORANDUM

The following is an objective statemen regarding a case of police brutality and what might be classified as a "lunching," as gathered from several persons in Cordele, Ga.:

Arthur Johnson, Negro living in Cordele, owed Mr. Bootn, white, who ran a marble yard, $7 which Mr. Booth had been unable to collect. On May 24, 1941, the police picked Johnson up an put him in jail. It is reported that Mr. Booth, summoned to come and beat up the Negro, sent word that he was busy and could not get down to the jail right away. However, about 6 o'clock that evening he came.

Then, according to the report, he and Mr. Tucker, chief of police, took the Negro in the chief's office and began to beat him. The Negro fought back and held them at bay for a few minutes, when Chief Tucker and Mr. Booth started toward him again, the Negro reached for a Coca-Cola bottle lying on the floor. Chief Tucker is then reported to have drawn his gun and shot the Negro seven times, the latter dying immediately.

The doctor who was summoned is said to have called a Negro undertaker to get the body of a man who had fallen out dead in jail. When the undertaker came for the body, he was told to have the Negro buried by the next morning at 10 o'clock.

The dead man's wife, forbidden to work by her physician because of high blood pressure, and his four children are now on relief. The oldest daughter, fourteen, has been working in domestic service, bringing in all the cash income that the family now has. The family gets a "little food" from the Department of Public Welfare and friends help them out.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

'God Was on My Side,' Declares Dodge Negro After Miraculous Escape From Angry Lynch Mob

By HAL ALLEN
[Telegraph Staff Writer]

EASTMAN, June 27.—The mob was against him, but God was on his side.

That is Eddie Lee Spivey's explanation of his miraculous escape from the Dodge county mob which snatched him from the jail here Wednesday night and later returned him to the saefty of his cell.

Talking slowly and deliberately in the rich, expressive dialect of his race, Spivey told today how he withstood harsh blows and cruel torture from a shouting, cursing mob. At one time he lost consciousness from pain, he said.

WROTE NEW CHAPTER

The 22-year-old Negro, accused of raping a 65-year-old white woman in a rural section, was taken from the jail and "tried" by the light of a big bonfire. The mob's decision that evidence was insufficient to lynch him wrote a brand new chapter in the history of impromptu Georgia justice.

"Boss man," Spivey said today, "I talked with my Lord after they arrested me Tuesday night and asked Him to save me. I told Him I was going to tell the truth, and after I talked with Him I didn't get scared or worried a bit."

Apparently still unable to realize that he is one of the few men who were ever returned alive to jail after having been seized by a mob, the Negro calmly related the following account of his harrowing experience:

OTHER PRISONERS SCARED

"When the mob began gathering in front of the county jail in Eastman early Tuesday afternoon some of the other prisoners looked out of the window and saw them. They got scared and told me to look. I wasn't a bit afraid when I saw them because Mr. Lewis [the sheriff] had already come upstairs and told me they were after me but they were going to have to get him first.

"After I looked out of the window I sat back down on my bunk and in a little while I went to sleep.

"Just about dark the other boys woke me again and told me the crowd was getting bigger and that they were coming after me. I got up and looked out of the window but I still wasn't scared so I went back to sleep.

"The other prisoners tried to wake me up again just a few minutes before the mob rushed the jail but I just turned over and went back to sleep. The next thing I remember, Mr. —— and some other white men were unlocking my cell and coming in after me. I knew they were going to get me so I just held up my hands and waited for them.

RUSHED INTO CAR

"Six or eight of the men grabbed me by the arms and legs and rushed me out to their car. Three men got in the front and three sat in the back, holding me so tight I could hardly move.

"When we got out in the country, they took me out of the car and asked me if I had raped Mrs. —— there. I told them I hadn't seen her in five years.

"One of the men asked me if I knew where his potato patch was in that neighborhood. I told him I did not, and he called me a "God damn liar" and hit me on the head with the butt of his pistol. He tried to hit me again but struck the white man on my right instead.

"Then the men made me sit down on the ground and they put a rope around my neck. The pistol blow on my head deafened me and I couldn't hear the questions they were asking me. When I didn't answer as fast as they asked questions some of the crowd started kicking me in the back and on the head.

SPEECHLESS FROM PAIN

"I told them that I didn't do the crime they were accusing me of but they kicked me over on my face and started twisting my legs. Blood was running into my nose and mouth from the place on my head and the pain was hurting me so bad when they twisted my legs that I couldn't talk.

"They kept twisting my legs and kicking and hitting me and asking me questions. I just kept telling them the truth, that I didn't do it.

"After a little while my mind went almost blank and I don't remember anything else until I heard somebody yell out and ask how many wanted to kill me and how many wanted to take me back to jail.

"Most of the crowd said they wanted to kill me and I just knew that they were going to do it. I told them then that even if they did kill me not to stop hunting until they found the man who had raped her.

RETURNED TO JAIL

"Then Mr. —— ——, one of the men who had taken me out of the cell, got the crowd together and they decided to take me back to jail.

"When they took me back, some of the boys in the jail said they figured they would have had a better chance to see their dead mothers come back from the grave than to see me returned alive."

Spivey, above the average in intelligence for uneducated members of his race, told his story frankly and simply. Obviously nervous until my mission was explained, the Negro spoke clearly and firmly during the entire interview.

In describing his actions prior to his arrest on the assault charges, Spivey admitted he had passed near the scene of the attack Tuesday but said he was en route to a point about two miles away in search of some "shine" whisky.

SEEKING WHISKY

He asserted that a turpentine worker had found a quart of illicit whisky in that vicinity several days before and at his mother's request he had gone there in an effort to find more.

"Ma said she was feeling bad and wanted some liquor," he related. "I didn't have no cash money so I thought I would go see if I could find some where the other man found a quart two or three days ago. I'm farming this year and I'm trading on credit at Mr. Ralph Kelley's store in Chauncey and I jes' didn't have any money to buy her no whisky."

Spivey said when the officers arrested him at his home he was afraid to admit the search for the whisky and told them instead he had gone to the home of his employer, Henry Brown, prominent Dodge farmer. When members of the Brown family denied he had been there, the Negro continued, he admitted he had lied and asked officers to take him to the point where he had searched for the liquor, so he could show them his tracks. He said the request was denied.

CONFRONTS VICTIM

Wednesday morning, Spivey said, he was carried to the victim's home where she was asked to identify him.

"She said I was about the same size," he asserted. "When she told Mr. Lewis and the others that the man who had attacked her was masked they put a mask over my face. She said it could have been me. I had wanted them to take me before her because I figured when she saw my face she would be able to tell them that I was not the one who did it."

Son of a tenant farmer, Spivey has been married five years and is the father of two sons, one four years of age and the other two. The Negro said he went to school for about three years but stopped and began working after his father died about 12 years ago. He was one of a family of 13 children.

"Boss man," he said as I left the cell, "ah wants Mr. Lewis and them to keep hunting until they find the right man. I been tellin' de truf all de time, and dat's what's gonna take me through this thing."

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Ike Gaston Kin Asks Jurors To Probe Sheriff

Charge Interference, Failure To Act in Flogging Cases.

By WILLARD COPE.

Charging interference and failure to act, relatives of Ike Gaston, who was flogged to death March 7, 1940, yesterday sent a demand to the grand jury for an investigation of Sheriff Mott Aldredge and his deputie.

They protested Aldredge's announced purpose to reinstate Warren W. Scarborough, a suspended deputy acquitted two weeks ago of a flogging charge; asserted that Scarborough, who was exalted cyclops of the East Point Ku Klux Klan, had been fined in old Campbell county for flogging, and insisted the grand jury should ascertain the facts.

"If Sheriff Aldredge and his deputies," the letter asserted, "had been vigilant and competent, if they had done what the law says they must do, when these floggings began after they took office, our brother would have never been murdered.

Charge Interference.

"Call before you the sheriff and his deputies and question them as to what they have done to apprehend any flogger since they assumed office. Question them as to why they have done everything possible to thwart the progress of the investigation."

Referring directly to Scarborough, the protestants declared:

"At the inquest he admitted he had directed members of the East Point post of the Ku Klux Klan to burn 'fiery crosses' in front of citizens' houses for the purpose of terrifying them into being 'better citizens.'

"The most damning admission, however, was his admission that he had witnessed the violation of laws in Fulton county since he became a deputy sheriff but that he did not make an arrest because he was enrobed in his Ku Klux Klan regalia and that the laws of that order prohibited his divulging his identity while enrobed. We ask you gentlemen, does a man who admits that he owes his first loyalty to an 'Invisible Empire' deserve to be placed in a position of trust which requires strict loyalty to the established principles of our government?"

Kinsmen Sign Demand.

They recalled Scarborough's admission at his first flogging trial that he had ordered the Klan's records burned "to protect prominent men," although an order for their seizure had been issued from superior court.

"Sheriff Aldredge knows all these things we have pointed out," the communication said. "They (deputies) have gone the length and breadth of Fulton county spreading malicious gossip about Assistant Solicitor General Duke because they were furious at him because he dared to do his sworn duty."

Signing the demand were a brother, J. M. Gaston, and three sisters, Mrs. D. C. Ingram, Mrs. G. W. Sims and Mrs. J. C. Adkisson.

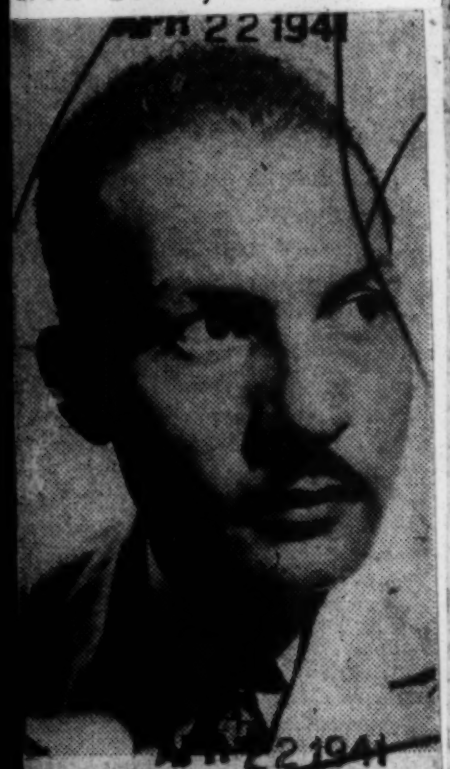
370-1941

GEORGIA

6650

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

APR 22 1941



JAMES E. JACKSON

Blame FDR's Army Policy For Lynchings

APR 22 1941

Charge Killing of Negro Soldiers Stems From Jim-Crow Support

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., April 21.—Lynching of a Negro soldier in uniform "is but the logical consequence of your endorsement of the jim - crow policy in the armed forces," Dr. James E. Jackson, vice-president of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, declared today in a scathing letter to President Roosevelt.

APR 22 1941

The letter referred to the recent lynching of Private Felix Hall, 19-year-old Negro volunteer of Millbrook, Ala., at Fort Benning, Ga. Hall was the second of three lynch victims whose lives have been taken during the first three months of 1941.

Court martial of Fort Benning officers responsible for the protection of Hall and other Negro soldiers stationed there, immediate enactment of the federal anti-lynching bill, an end to jim-crowism in the army, cash indemnity to the lynched soldier's family and the death penalty for the lynchers were also demanded in the letter.

APR 22 1941

EXPOSES ARMY DODGE

"The most recent statement issued by Provost Marshal Herbert B. Laux (of Fort Benning) in which he states that 'death might have resulted from hanging or suicide' indicates a bland attempt on the part of army authorities to close the case by shifting the blame for the crime on to the corpse of the victim." the letter accused

Organizations and individuals were urged by the Congress to send letters and telegrams of protest to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Washington, D.C.; Provost Marshal Herbert B. Laux, Fort Benning, Ga.; General George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, Washington, D. C., and William Hastie, civilian aid to the Secretary of War, Munition Building, Washington, D. C.

Daily World
Atlanta; Georgia

Investigation Will Continue

APR 24 1941

COLUMBUS, Ga.—(SNS) — Although investigations by the Fort Benning military police and Federal Bureau of Investigation agents have produced no convincing evidence of murder in the case of Private Felix Hall, Company 2, 24th Infantry, Lieutenant Colonel Herbert B. Laux, Provost Marshal, at the army camp, is of the personal opinion that Hall was murdered, it was revealed here Wednesday.

APR 24 1941

Hall's fully clothed body was found on March 28, dangling over a cliff on the reservaionfi with one end of a rope around the neck and the other tied to a sapling near the top of a gully, his feet being bound together with wire and hands losoely tied to his body.

Discovery of the body was made by soldiers of the 20th Engineer regiment, while engaged in combat training exercise. The gully in which the body was found is located in a little frequented wooded area adjacent to that part of the post in which the barracks of the 24th Infantry, colored unit, are located. The man apparently had been dead several weeks as the body was badly decomposed when found.

APR 24 1941

MISSING SINCE FEB. 12

Positive indentification, otherwise impossible, was made after finger-prints had been taken and checked through FBI files in Washington. Hall, whose home had been in Montgomery, was last seen in his organization on February 12 and was marked absent without leave the next day.

Colonel Laux said Wednesday that the FBI has had two investigators on the case for sometime and that one of his officer assistants is devoting most of his time to it.

The provost marshal said that it was his opinion that Hall was alive when his body was suspended over the cliff. The feet were several inches above normal ground level. They touched lightly so that dirt apparently deposited under them as it dropped from the side of the gully when Hall struggled to obtain an foothold, Colonel Laux pointed. When this dirt was removed a piece of wire and a small piece of rope, similar to those on the body, were found under it, it was stated.

A thorough check of Hall's background has failed to reveal any acquaintances or circumstances tending to fix responsibility for the death.

APR 24 1941

TO CONTINUE PROBE

Major General Lloyd R. Fredendall, commanding general of Fort Benning, has closely followed the progress of the long investigation. He restated Friday to P. L. Taylor, WORLD representative, his determination to continue his investigation indefinitely unless clues now being followed provided a solution.

Others interviewed at the same time by the WORLD representative were Lieutenant Colonel John R. Eden, post public relations officer; Lieutenant Colonel James P. Crawford, Medical Corps, in charge of the laboratory of the Fort Benning Hospital and Provost Marshall Laux.

APR 24 1941

All pomised to leave no stones unturned in the effort to arrive at a soluntion of the death of Private Felix Hall.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Killing Is Called Act Of A Mob

APR 22 1941

Urgent Letters Sent to F. D. R. And Stimson

NEW YORK, N. Y.—(SNS)—In strong letters to President Roosevelt and Henry L. Stimson, secretary of war, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People urged complete investigation of the death of Private Felix Hall, of the 24th Infantry, located at Ft. Benning, Ga.

APR 22 1941

The letter asked "action deemed necessary to discover and punish the perpetrators of this crime."

The Association branded the killing of Private Hall as a lynching, and in its letter to Secretary Stimson said:

"We feel certain that the War Department does not wish the crime of lynching to be perpetrated on the reservation of one of its largest forts, in connection wth the training of an army supposedly for the defense of democracy."

To President Roosevelt, the N. A. A. C. P. wrote that failure of the proper authorities to seek out and punish the lynchers "would be a further blow at the morale of colored Americans who are being urged daily to give unstinted support to the national defense effort."

APR 22 1941

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

SOLDIER'S BODY FOUND HANGING FROM TREES NEAR FT. BENNING

APR 20 1941

FORT BENNING, Ga., April 17 (ANP)—The fully clothed body of a Fort Benning soldier found tied to a rope and hanging from a tree, was identified Monday as being that of Private Felix Hall, 19 year old Montgomery, Ala., member of Company "E", 24th Infantry, who disappeared from camp, Feb. 15.

APR 20 1941

Since his disappearance, his family heard no more of him until two weeks ago, when a neighbor's son from the regiment told them Felix's body had been found hanging from a tree with a bullet through the temple, in the woods outside camp.

Soldiers of the 20th Engineer regiment engaged in a field problem came across the badly decomposed body March 28. Passing along a deeply eroded gulley in a wooded and little frequented area, north of the 24th infantry swimming pool and starbles, they noticed what they thought was another soldier on a small lodge about half way up one side of the gulley.

APR 20 1941

Homicide or Suicide?

They notified military police who concluded that apparently the man had dropped himself, or had been dropped, over the ledge of the gulley after one end of a rope had been placed about his neck and the other end had been tied to a sapling which was growing a few feet back from the top of the gulley. Medical officers stated that he had been dead at least four weeks, and that the manner of death was by strangulation, which could have been either homicide or suicide.

The body was positively identified as that of the Montgomery youth through fingerprints. Lt. Col. Herbert Laux announced that in an attempted solution all clues are being investigated by both the provost marshal and the federal bureau of investigation.

James Hall, father of the soldier who enlisted as a volunteer, says that when he heard of his son's death through a neighbor's son on April 2, he went immediately to Fort Benning where the only person whom he was able to contact was Austin J. Doyle, special agent of the F. B. I. Doyle showed the father pictures of the body roped and wired hanging from the tree, and told him it would be released as soon as a report on information sent to Washington was returned. The body was sent to Montgomery last Tuesday.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Roosevelt Asked To Investigate Soldier's Death

APR 27 1941

NEW YORK, N. Y., April 24—In strong letters to President Roosevelt and Henry L. Stimson, secretary of war, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People urged complete investigation of the death of Private Felix Hall, of the 24th Infantry, located at Ft. Benning, Ga.

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APR 27 1941

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APR 27 1941

To President Roosevelt the N. A. A. C. P. wrote that failure of the proper authorities to seek out and punish the lynchers "would be a further blow at the morale of colored Americans who are being urged daily to give unstinted support to the national defense effort.

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

F. D. R., Stimson Asked To Probe Soldier Lynching

APR 25 1941

NEW YORK.—In strong letters to President Roosevelt and Henry L Stimson, Secretary of War, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People urged complete investigation of the death of Private Felix Hall, of the 24th Infantry located at Fort Benning, Ga.

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APR 25 1941

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Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

CONTINUE PROBE IN 'LYNCH' DEATH OF RACE SOLDIER

370

By P. L. PRATTIS

FORT BENNING, Ga., June 26—Whoever participated in the hanging of Pvt. Felix Hall, Company E, 24th Infantry regiment, from a tree on the United States Military reservation here early in February, whether they be one or more, white or colored, had better wat[illegible] JUN 28 1941 tion is on their trail.

Long after the present difficulty with Hitler has been resolved, if not before, the United States Army and the Federal Bureau of Investigation will be tracking down the murderer or murderers.

There need be no fear that this is an [illegible] lynching. Nobody yet knows whether Hall was lynched or murdered, but it looks like both.

JUN 28 1941

FBI EXPECTS TO SOLVE CASE

But this lynching or murder, whichever it was, is distinguished from the usual run of such crimes by the fact that it was committed on a United States military reservation.

Such crimes [illegible] they occur on military reservations during peace times fall within the purview of the federal law enforcing machinery and the FBI. The Army will conduct its own independent investigation, but concurrent with that probe and undoubtedly extending beyond it if the mystery is not cleared soon will be that of the FBI. The FBI never closes its books on a case.

Exhaustive investigation of the death of Felex Hall has already been made. Voluminous reports, covering testimony taken at Fort Bennnig, have been submitted to Washington. But nobody yet knows who killed Felix Hall, or if he was killed.

BODY HANGING FROM TREE

Whoever is responsibe for the death had better join the Army now, if they are not already in it, and find some way to die a hero, for the chances are he or they have got a natural death coming to them.

Hall's fully clothed body was found dangling over a cliff on the reservation, with one end of a rope around the neck and the other tied to a sapling near the top of the gulley. The feet were bound together with wire and the hands were loosely tied to the body.

Discovery of the body was made by soldiers of the 20th Engineer regiment while engaged in combat training exercise. Hall apparently had been dead for several weeks, as the body was badly decomposed.

In the opinion of Lt. Col. Herbert B. Laux, provost marshal here, Hall was alive when his body was suspended over the cliff. The feet were several inches above normal ground level.

AREA CLOSED TO WHITE TROOPS

A thorough check of Hall's background has failed to reveal any acquaintances of his or circumstances tending to [illegible] responsibility for the death.

JUN 28 1941

The [illegible] where Hall's body was found is only a short distance from the 24th Infantry swimming pool. In fact that area is loosely considered a part of the 24th Infantry area. Very few white soldiers ever enter the area unless they are on official business or on work or training assignments.

370-1941

6651

Macon, Ga., News
November 20, 1941

NEGRO SPARED BY MOB WILL BE TRIED HERE

Eddie Lee Spivey, Dodge county Negro who escaped death at the hands of a lynch mob, will go on trial in Bibb superior court here Dec. 1 on a charge of raping a Dodge county white woman.

The Negro farm hand once was taken from the Dodge county jail at Eastman and carried into the woods by a lynch-bent mob but was returned to the sheriff's custody when he refused to confess the attack and when other evidence failed to conclusively prove his guilt.

The Negroes attorney's obtained a change of venue to avoid a trial in Dodge county.

• • •

TWENTY - THREE additional cases have been scheduled for the December term of superior court here, which is to hold two criminal court sessions simultaneously.

The new cases are all jailed persons indicted this week by the Bibb grand jury. Addition of these on the already heavy docket for the week of Dec. 1 is in line with Judge A. M. Anderson's plans to clear the jails and try all pending cases. The new cases will be prosecuted by Assistant Solicitor Norman E. English before a judge to be announced later.

Seven murder cases, the multi-charges of kidnaping, assault to murder, robbery, etc., against Noah Lee Barrett, Negro, will be prosecuted by Solicitor Charles Garrett before Judge Anderson.

The calendar for the first division, with Judge Anderson presiding, includes the following cases:

• • •

EDDIE LEE SPIVEY, rape; James Dowdell, Cecil Roland, Cecil Bryant, Floyd Daniel, Joe Turner, Walter Ridley and Edward Smith, murder; E. V. Renny, forgery; Noah Lee Barrett and Willie Jackson, alias Bubber Jackson, assault with intent to murder and felony; Noah Lee Barrett, felony, kidnaping, robbery and carrying concealed weapons; Noah Lee Barrett and Willie Jackson, robbery; William Jackson, alias Will Battle, rape; W. E. Barksdale; arson. Spivey is the Negro whom an Eastman, Ga., mob returned to jail after deciding not to lynch him.

The calendar for the second division, the judge of which is to be selected, includes the following cases:

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MONDAY: Henry Thomas, simple larceny; Charlie Howard, voluntary manslaughter; Ralph Elliott and Alfred Elliott, assault to murder; T. J. Rawlings, fradulent conversion; J. L. Jackson, assault to murder; Cecil Johnson and Allease Walls, assault to murder; Dock Hart assault to murder; Otis Southerland, alias Otis Sullivan and Mike Petrantis, larceny from person; Cleveland Brown, assault to murder; Jimmie Jordan and Elliott Strickland, several charges of burglary; Roger Griffin, burglary; Frank Luckie, alias Frank Dean, robbery; Tommie Lee Patterson, assault to murder; James Bennett and Howard Griffith, larceny from house; William Henderson, alias Charlie Williams, forgery; Oscar James Holt and Mose Jordan, robbery, and Ellis Lee Williams, assault to murder.

• • •

TUESDAY: Jesse Jones, John Henry Carter, Chester Thomas, burglary; Albert Irwin, John Foster Davis, and Nehemiah Jackson, burglary; Mose Jordan and James Hunter, asasult to murder; Ellis Hollis, burglary; Charlie Jones, burglary; Augustus Jones, alias Scrap, burglary; Leo C. Prather, two charges of felony; Hillman Johnson, shooting a another; James Hillard, assault to murder and carrying concealed weapons; Edgar Griffin, assault to murder; James Wesley, burglary; Douglas Nelson, carrying weapon, pointing weapon, ar shooting at another; Ben Davis, burglary.

GEORGIA

MACON, Ga.—For once, a Georgia lynch mob used good judgment.

Last June, a mob dragged Eddie Lee Spivey, 22-year-old Negro farmer, from jail bent on putting him to death, but two hours later the would-be lynchers returned Spivey to the jail unharmed.

"We didn't find enough evidence to lynch him," one of the mob members told Dodge county jail officials as Spivey was returned to jail.

On Saturday, December 6, Spivey was tried before a jury on a charge of raping a middle-aged white woman. Spivey pleaded not guilty. The jury found Spivey not guilty.

The public was excluded from the trial which lasted a week. The woman was unable to identify Spivey.

Gaining his freedom, Spivey said, "I think the Lord has saved me for a purpose, to preach or teach or something for the carrying on of His work."

Kansas City. Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Almost Lynched By Mob

DEC 1 21941

White Woman Was Unable to Identify Him

6787

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Body Of Man Believed Ft. Benning Soldier Found Dangling From Tree; F.B.I. Officials Notified

COLUMBUS, Ga.—(SNS)—The body of a man tentatively identified as that of Private Felix Hall, Company E, 24th Infantry, was found hanging to a sapling tree on the military reservation at Fort Benning it was reported Wednesday. APR 3 1941

The body was partially decomposed.

An investigation to determine the man's positive identity and circumstances surrounding his death was started by Lieutenant Colonel Herbert B. Laux.

Colonel Laux said it was apparent the man came to his death by strangulation, either by suicide or murder.

Beyond that, Colonel Laux would make no other statement.

The body was discovered by members of the 20th Engineers who were engaged in field problems in that area. At first, the men thought the body was another soldier on a small ledge on the side of a ravine.

The body was actually found in a deep gulley, in a wooded and seldom frequented area north of the 24th Infantry swimming pool and the Infantry school stables.

Immediately after finding the body, the Provost Marshal was notified. APR 3 1941

The victim had dropped himself or had been dropped over the edge of the gulley after one end of the rope had been placed around his neck and the other tied to a tree which was just a few feet back of the gulley.

The body was about five feet, nine inches tall and weighed approximately 150 pounds. APR 3 1941

A check of records by officers of the 24th Infantry and the 48th Quartermaster and Headquarter detachment revealed that Private Hall had been marked absent without leave on February 13 and later listed as a deserter.

According to the first sergeant of Company E, 24th Infantry, a pair of civilian shoes found on the body were identified as Hall's, but said the man's face was too badly decomposed to make a positive identification. In general appearance the body is similar to that of Hall. The undershirt he was wearing was identified by its serial number as belonging to another soldier of Company E, 24th Infantry, who has been located.

The uniform he was wearing contained the markings of another soldier in the Anti-Tank Company, 24th Infantry, who also was located. APR 3 1941

The Military Police are working on the assumption that the body is that of Hall unless there are further developments. The Federal Bureau of Investigation was called to investigate. This was explained to be the usual procedure.

Southern News
almanac
Birmingham, Ala.

Protest Lynching Of Negro Soldier

APR 17 1941

SOUTHERN NEGRO YOUTH CONGRESS SENDS LETTER TO PRES. ROOSEVELT

The lynching of a Negro soldier in uniform, Private Felix Hall of Fort Benning, Ga., "is but the logical consequence of your official endorsement of the Jim Crow policy in the armed forces," declared Dr. James E. Jackson, vice-president of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, this week in a letter to President Roosevelt. APR 17 1941

The letter called for the immediate enactment of the Federal Anti-Lynching Bill, cash indemnity to the lynched soldier's family, and the death penalty for the lynchers. The President was also called upon to banish Jim Crowism in the armed forces.

Private Hall, age 19 and the only bread winner in his family, was reported to have volunteered in the Army because he could not find a job elsewhere. He lived with his family at Millbrook, Alabama.

He had been missing from his outfit since February 14 when his body, very badly decomposed, was found on March 31 swinging from a tree with his arms tied behind him and his legs bound together.

A statement was made by Provost Marshal Herbert B. Laux at Fort Benning that "death may have resulted from hanging or suicide."

TELEGRAMS SENT

Telegrams protesting against this feeble effort to close the case had previously been sent by the Southern Negro Youth Congress to President Roosevelt, United States Attorney General Robert H. Jackson and Chief of Staff George C. Marshall. APR 17 1941

The family of young Hall, consisting of two younger brothers, a grandmother and an unemployed father, are reported to be in destitute circumstances.

Dr. Jackson's letter to the President demanded full investigation of the crime.

"Lynching of this young Negro while in the uniform of the United States Army is but the logical consequence of undemocratic army policy." Dr. Jackson's letter said.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

MYSTERY SURROUNDS DEATH OF ARMY MAN

APR 19 1941

FORT BENNING, Ga., Apr. 17—Lt. Col. Herbert B. Laux, Fort Benning provost marshal, announced Monday the positive identification through fingerprints of the soldier whose fully clothed body was found tied to a tree and hanging over a gully in a wooded portion of the reservation about two weeks ago.

Colonel Laux said the body was identified as that of Private Felix Hall, of "E" Company, 24th Infantry, through fingerprints made at Fort Benning and returned from Washington. Hall's home was in Montgomery, Ala.

FOUND NEAR POOL

The body was found by soldiers of the 28th Engineer Regiment who were on a field problem. A rope was tied around the man's neck and fastened to a tree near the gully, in a wooded and little frequented area near the 24th Infantry swimming pool. Medical authorities said he had ben dead about four weeks. APR 19 1941

The body, badly decomposed, was dressed in a fatigue suit over uniform trousers and shirt. Civilian shoes were being worn at the time of the soldier's death.

He apparently died from strangulation, Colonel Laux said. Incidental circumstances could indicate either homicide or suicide. In an attempted solution all clues are being investigated by both the provost marshal and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Fingerprints Establish Identity Of Hung Soldier

APR 13 1941

Bullet Wound Later Found In Man's Trussed-up Body

FORT BENNING, Ga.—(ANP)—The fully clothed body of a Fort Benning soldier found tied to a rope and hanging from a tree, was identified Saturday as being that of Private Felix Hall, 19 year old Montgomery, Ala., member of Company "E," 24th infantry, who disappeared from camp, Feb. 13.

Since his disappearance, his family heard no more of him until two weeks ago, when a neighbor's son from the regiment told them Felix's body had been found hanging from a tree with a bullet through the temple in the woods outside the camp.

APR 13 1941

Soldiers of the 20th Engineer regiment engaged in a field problem came across the badly decomposed body March 28. Passing along a deeply eroded gulley in a wooded and little frequented area, north of the 24th infantry swimming pool and stables, they noticed what they thought was another soldier on a small ledge about half way up one side of the gully.

APR 13 1941

They notified military police who concluded that apparently the man had dropped himself, or had been dropped, over the ledge of the gully after one end of a rope had been placed about his neck and the other end had been tied to a sapling which was growing a few feet back from the top of the gully. Medical officers stated that he had been dead at least four weeks, and that the manner of death was by strangulation, which could have been either homicide or suicide.

The body was positively identified as that of the Montgomery youth through fingerprints. Lt. Col. Herbert Laux announced that in an attempted solution all clues are being investigated by both the provost marshal and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

James Hall, father of the soldier who enlisted as a volunteer, says that when he heard of his son's death through a neighbor's son on April 2, he went immediately to Fort Benning where the only person whom he was able to contact was Austin J. Doyle, special agent of the F.B.I. Doyle showed the father pictures of the body roped and wired hanging from the tree, and told him it would be released as soon as a report on information sent to Washington was returned.

The Northwest Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

F. D. R. Stimson Asked To Probe Lynching

APR 25 1941

New York, N. Y.—In strong letters to President Roosevelt and Henry L. Stimson, secretary of war, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People urged complete investigation of the death of Private Felix Hall of the 24th Infantry, located at Ft. Benning, Ga.

The letter asked "action deemed necessary to discover and punish the perpetrators of this crime."

The Association branded the killing of Private Hall as a lynching, and in its letter to Secretary Stimson sail:

APR 25 1941

"We feel certain that the War department does not wish the crime of lynching to be perpetrated on the reservation of one of its largest forts, in connection with the training of an army supposedly for the defense of democracy."

To President Roosevelt, the N. A. A. C. P. wrote that failure of the proper authorities to seek out and punish the lynchers "would be a further blow at the morale of colored Americans who are being urged daily to give unstinted support to the national defense effort."

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Youth Congress Demands Probe of Ga. "Lynching"

APR 26 1941

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The "lynching" of a soldier in uniform, Private Felix Hall of Fort Benning, Ga., "is but the logical consequence of your official endorsement of the jim-crow policy in the armed forces," declared Dr. James E. Jackson, vice-president of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, in a letter to President Roosevelt.

The letter called for the immediate enactment of a Federal anti-lynching bill, cash indemnity to Hall's family and the death penalty for the "lynchers." The President was also called upon to banish discrimination in the armed forces.

APR 26 1941

Dr. Jackson declared that the conscience of the nation had been shocked by the "lynching" of 19-year-old Private Hall, of Millbrook, whose "decomposed body was discovered swinging from a tree with his arms tied behind him and his legs bound together."

APR 26 1941

Asks Full Probe

In his letter to the President, he said further:

"The most recent statement issued by Provost Marshal Herbert B. Laux, in which he says that 'death might have resulted from hanging or suicide' indicates a bland attempt on the part of army authorities to close the case by shifting the blame for the crime onto the corpse of the victim.

"We demand a full investigation of this crime with the immediate court martial of those officers directly responsible for the protection and safety of the soldiers of Fort Benning.

$20,000 Indemnity Asked

APR 26 1941

"The family of young Hall, consisting of two brothers, a grandmother and unemployed father, is in a destitute condition. We demand that an indemnity of $20,000 be paid to the family of the deceased soldier.

"We demand also that you, Mr. President, issue a decree to banish jim crowism in all of its forms from all branches of the armed forces and the national defense industries."

The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

LYNCHED DESPITE SOLDIER'S UNIFORM

MAY 1 — 1941

Southern Negro Youth Congress, 624 Masonic Temple Bldg., Birmingham, Ala.—The lynching of a Negro soldier in uniform, Pvt. Felix Hall of Fort Benning, Ga. "is but the logical consequence of our official endorsement of the Jim Crow policy in the Armed forces," declared Dr. James E. Jackson, vice-president of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, in a letter to President Roosevelt.

MAY 1 1941

The letter called for the immediate enactment of the Federal Anti-Lynching Bill, cash indemnity to the lynched soldiers family and the death penalty for the lynchers. The President was also called upon to banish Jim Crowism in the Armed forces.

The full text of the letter ended with: "All organizations and interested individuals are urged to send letters and telegrams of protest to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Provest Marshall Herbert B. Laux, Fort Benning, Ga., General George C. Marshall, U. S. Army, Mr. William Hastie, Civilian Aid to Secretary of War, Munition Building, Washington, D. C.

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LOUISVILLE, KY. DEFENDER
FEB. 1, 1941

LOUISIANA

6788

A STORY AND A SEQUEL

Part one of the story appeared in the Detroit Tribune; various groups in Detroit and Michigan fought the extradition of a Negro, located in Michigan, who was accused by Louisiana police officials of having been connected with the slaying of a white policeman in the Southern state 10 years ago. The accused man denied any guilt and the battle went to the Governor's office. Extradition was granted and the Negro was returned to Louisiana.

Part two of the story appeared in the New Orleans Sentinel a few days later: A Negro returned here (to Louisiana) from Michigan last week to face a murder charge was shot to death by police who had him in custody when, the officers said, he attempted to escape as they took him on a tour of investigation. The Negro who denied guilt in the ten-year-old slaying fought extradition unsuccessfully for some time.

The sequel, to which the conclusion has not been written, appeared in Louisiana weekly newspapers this week:The NAACP claims that the Negro who was returned here (to Louisiana) to face a murder trial was LYNCHED. Officials of the association ask, "Did Smith (the victim) die from a pistol shot or from being beaten over the head?" And in their opinion "detectives of New Orleans took Smith 'for a ride' and took the law in their own hands without any kind of a trial."

Almost without exception this will be the sequel to any story of any Negro being extradited to the South until a Federal anti-lynching law is passed and enforced.

379-1941

LOUISIANA

6789

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Fear Louisianian Murdered By Police

JAN 21 1941

NEW ORLEANS, La.—(Graphic Press)—The fatal shooting of Willmer Smith, 37, by Detective William Grosch, after Smith had been returned here from Detroit accused of the murder of Patrolman Lester Johnson, on January 18, 1930, is being discussed generally throughout the city and belief is expressed that Smith was deliberately murdered by New Orleans police.

Smith was arrested in Detroit, and after being persuaded to waive extradition was returned here by Detectives Wm. Grosch and Andrew Arnold. The detectives arrived here with Smith at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 15, and after a short questioning at the Third Precinct station, police stated that they were en route to Vacharie with the prisoner to secure a gun which they claim Smith had said he left there in 1930. The police report on the killing of Smith, who was in company with Detectives Grosch and Arnold, explained the killing as follows:

"Detectives Andrew Arnold and William Grosch, put the Negro Smith in the police car to take him to Vacharie to try and recover the gun. Detective Arnold driving the car, and while on the Airline Highway near LaBar Road the Negro complained that he had a call of nature and had to go at once. Detective Andrew Arnold stopped the car and as Detective Wm. Grosch got out of the car with the Negro, Smith in back of the automobile the Negro, Smith struck Detective Grosch over the head with the handcuffs which were around his wrists knocking him to the ground. Detective Grosch grabbed the Negro and yelled for Detective Arnold who was on the front seat of the automobile. Detective Arnold got out of the car while Detective Grosch was scuffling with the Negro, and Detective Grosch fired one ineffectual shot to try to stop the Negro. Grosch while scuffling with the Negro struck him with his regulation revolver to try and subdue him, but as Arnold and Grosch were scuffling with the Negro he managed to get his two hands over Detective Grosch's head with the handcuffs on and attempted to choke the officer, when Detective Wm. Grosch fired the second shot which struck the Negro in the neck. He fell to the ground dragging Grosch with him.

ACCUSED OF SHOOTING POLICE

Smith is accused of shooting Patrolman Johnson who was on strike duty at Esplanade Avenue and North Rampart St., in 1930. Johnson, supposedly, stopped his killer, driving a dilapidated automobile. The driver, reportedly, left from the car and engaged the officer in a struggle. After getting away from the officer, the Negro allegedly shot the officer, from which wound Johnson died a few days later. The license on the automobile was traced to the ownership of Smith. Smith, being accused of a crime, and consistently denying that he was driving his automobile at the time, left town and was not heard of until a few weeks ago, when he was arrested in Detroit and discovered to be the man wanted for this murder.

The New Orleans Press Club in a special meeting last Thursday night scrutinized and discussed the report, and the belief is given that it was a deliberate murder. State's attorney-general, Eugene Stanley has been asked to order an investigation, both in New Orleans parish where the questioning first took place, and in Jefferson Parish where he was shot and killed by New Orleans detectives. Copies of this correspondence has been sent to United States Attorney-General Jackson at Washington, D. C., to ascertain if Federal laws have been violated in the event that it is proven that Smith was transported from another state into Louisiana and murdered deliberately.

The local branch of the NAACP will also take the case up at their next executive session.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Police Slaying of Prisoner Arouses New Orleans

Detective Kills Wilbert Moore; Says He Tried To Escape

FEB 1 1941

FEB 1 1941

NEW ORLEANS.—(ANP)—Not since the "cell" death of Aaron Boyd in August of 1938 have Negroes of this section been as concerned over a police killing as they are over the death of Wilbert Moore, 37, who was shot and killed by Detective Chief William Grosch when Moore allegedly tried to escape while in custody of Grosch and Detective Andrew Arnold.

The killing occurred about 6:30 p. m. Wednesday when the officers were reported to have been en route to Vacherie with Moore to search for a gun that was said to have been used in the slaying of Patrolman Lester Johnson, 39, on January 18, 1930.

Early in December, Moore was arrested in Detroit as a suspect of the 10-year-old murder. He admitted his identity, but denied that he had anything to do with the killing. Officers from New Orleans were delayed several weeks by court action but finally got permission to bring the man back to Louisiana. They arrived in the city shortly before 6 p. m. and Moore was killed before 6:30.

According to Grosch, Moore engaged him in a fight when they stopped on the Air-Line highway a half-mile from the Orleans parish line. Moore, the detective said, struck him on the head with both fists, being handcuffed, and knocked him down. When he regained his feet, said Grosch, the prisoner linked his arms around his neck and attempted to choke him. The detective said he drew his revolver and attempted to hit Moore with it, but was unsuccessful. He then shot him in the neck, killing him instantly.

The citizens of New Orleans are skeptical of the story told by the police officers. They expressed a disbelief that a handcuffed man would attempt to overcome two armed officers; that the second detective, Andrew Arnold, would sit calmly by and not attempt to aid another officer engaged in a fight with a prisoner; that if the man were on the way to Vacherie, La., as they stated, what "evidence" were they looking for that might aid them in solving a murder committed in 1930, especially since the road was constructed after that time? Many persons have expressed beliefs that the prisoner was taken for a "ride." Grosch said that Moore confessed the fatal shooting, but it was not stated that the confession was verbal or written. The killing for which Moore was suspected occurred in 1930 when Patrolman Lester John jumped from a street car and stopped a Negro man who was driving an automobile. The officer was shot when he attempted to beat the man with a blackjack. It was said that the ownership of the car was traced to Moore.

Times-Picayune
New Orleans, La.

FARMER IS SLAIN, THREE FACED BY MURDER CHARGE

FEB 21 1941

Witness Declares Two of Group Fired on Victim Without Warning

(The Associated Press)

Mansfield, La., Feb. 20.—Three men, Henry Williams, Jim Williams and Bruce Greening, are being held in jail here today on murder charges in connection with the fatal shooting late Tuesday afternoon of Clifton Scott, 50-year-old farmer.

Jack Bolden, 25-year-old Negro, is being held as a material witness. Bolden signed a statement, according to the office of Sheriff J. J. McFatter, that he witnessed the shooting and implicated the three men. Bolden said he accompanied the trio in a truck to the Scott farm, where Greening went up to the farm house. Mrs. Scott called her husband, who was working in a nearby field, according to Bolden, and when Scott neared the truck, two of the three men starting shooting Scott without warning.

FEB 21 1941

The sheriff's office stated that when the three were shown Bolden's statement Thursday morning they declined to comment.

Scott was a World war veteran. He is survived by his widow and six children. Funeral services will be held at his residence late Thursday and the body will be sent to Laurel, Miss., for burial.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Release Five Held In La. Mill Murder

FEB 8 1941

SHREVEPORT, La.—Five men who were being held in connection with the slaying of Nelse McKalpin, an employee of the Frost Lumber Industry at Waskom, Texas, were released last week when evidence failed to connect them with the murder.

NOV 8 1941

McKalpin's body was found hanging on a wire fence on the highway one mile east of the Louisiana-Texas stateline Sunday.

His skull had been split open by a blow from an instrument believed to have been an axe.

Later in the day a blood-stained axe with hair sticking on the blade was found in a shack by investigating officers.

About the same time the axe was found in this establishment just over the state line from Caddo Parish, officers found a spot behind the building which appeared to have been stained by blood.

It was learned that McKalpin had a very good reputation and according to his people, had no money that would have provoked robbery as a motive for his slaying.

It is the consensus here that McKalpin was the victim of a lynch mob.

Times-Picayune
New Orleans, La.

SLAYING SUSPECT SHOT AND KILLED DURING GUN HUNT

JAN 16 1941

Detective Says He Started Running During Quest for Weapon at Kenner

Wilbert Moore, 37-year-old Negro, was shot and killed about 6:30 p. m. Wednesday by one of two detectives who were returning him from Detroit to face murder charges here for the fatal shooting of a New Orleans policeman on January 18, 1930.

Detective William Grosch, who with Detective Andrew Arnold had the Negro in custody, notified headquarters that the prisoner attempted to escape while they were searching in Kenner for the gun said to have been used in the slaying of Patrolman Lester Johnson, 39, 2826 Lepage street.

Grosch said that when Moore broke and ran he called to him to halt, but that the Negro failed to heed his order. He said he fired one shot.

Johnson, who was on streetcar strike duty at Esplanade avenue and North Rampart street the morning of the 1930 shooting, stopped a Negro for driving a dilapidated automobile. The Negro leaped from the automobile and engaged the officer in a struggle, during which the patrolman struck the Negro on the head with a blackjack. The Negro broke away and after running about 30 feet turned and fired one shot, the bullet striking Johnson in the abdomen. He died five days later. Ownership of the car was traced to Moore.

When arrested in Detroit early in December, Moore admitted his identity, but denied the killing and refused to waive extradition. Grosch and Arnold left here December 19 to bring him back, being delayed several weeks by court action.

Times-Picayune
New Orleans, La.

MURDER CASE SET FOR APRIL SESSION

MAR 11 1941

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

Springville, La., March 10. — Court attaches said today that the trial of Ashton Heard, 23-year-old Negro of New Orleans, would get under way in the district court here the first Monday in April.

Last week Eugene Johnson, 22-year-old Negro was found guilty of first degree murder by a jury and will be sentenced to death by Judge Hypolite Mixon within a few days.

Johnson, Heard and Eddie Garrett, who was killed by a Hammond officer some months ago, were all charged with murder of Steve Bench, wealthy farmer residing on the outskirts of Albany. Heard and Johnson were arrested at Houston, Tex., and returned here.

MAR 11 1941

Garrett also was suspected of killing Miss Ella Bergman in her cow barn at Loranger. After the conviction of Johnson last week he was taken to the East Baton Rouge jail. Heard is also confined in the Baton Rouge jail and will be brought here under heavy guard when his case is called. Livingston parish will witness its first legal execution when Johnson pays the penalty, it was stated.

DOUBT STORY OF DETECTIVE WHO SHOT MAN

Defender

New Orleans Cop Charges Suspect Slugged Him With Handcuffs

FEB 1 — 1941

NEW ORLEANS, La. — It was assured here early this week that the killing of Willmer Smith by Detective William Grosch will be investigated, according to correspondence received from Attorney General Eugene Stanley, and District Attorney John E. Fleury of Jefferson Parish.

Chicago Ill.

Smith was recently returned from Detroit, after having waged an unsuccessful court fight against extradition, according to information received from Detroit. Smith was railroaded through the court, and extradition was illegally granted.

New Orleans Press club, upon learning that Smith was fatally shot through the neck by Detective Grosch less than an hour after he had arrived in New Orleans, asked the attorney general to order an investigation, stating that they doubted the report turned in by Deective Grosch, following the murder.

Grosch had stated that after a short questioning of Smith at the Third Precinct Station in New Orleans, he had admitted the killing of Policeman Johnson 10 years ago, and that Smith had told him that the gun with which the officer was shot was in Vacharie, La., with a sister: and that enroute to Vacharie, Smith had had a call of nature, and upon getting out of the car with Detective Grosch had struck Grosch across the head with handcuffed hands, scuffing with him and attempting to choke him.

It was during this scuffle, according to the police, and after Detective Grosch had called to Detective Arnold, who was driving the car, that Grosch pulled his pistol and shot the man through the neck.

Unofficial investigation by the New Orleans Press club revealed the impossibilities of the procedure in this matter, and upon seeing the body of the slain man, it was felt that his death was a "streamlined lynching."

Attorney General Stanley, in a letter to the New Orleans Press club, stated that he had requested District Attorney J. Bernard Cocke of Orleans Parish to make a full investigation of this matter, and report back to him. He also promised that he would advise the Press club upon hearing from the district attorney.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

HINT COP SHOT MAN TO HIDE CLUB MURDER

Demand Probe Of Manner In Which Victim Was Slain By Police

FEB 8 — 1941

NEW ORLEANS.—According to officials of the New Orleans Press club and the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, new evidence in the lynching of Willmer Smith by Detective William Grosch has been unearthed, and state officials have been urged to press the investigation and suspend the detective while investigation is in progress.

The N.A.A.C.P. in an executive session appointed a committee to raise funds to help with the investigation, and directed correspondence and telegrams to state and city officials asking that the responsibility for the murder be officially designated upon Orleans or Jefferson parish.

The New Orleans Press club, in an executive session Friday also presented startling new evidence showing that Smith was beaten to death in Orleans parish, and shot through the right side of the neck after he was dead, and carried across the parish line into Jefferson parish.

FEB 8 1941

Smith was returned to New Orleans January 15 at 6:30 p.m., by Detectives William Grosch and Andrew Arnold, after having been extradited from Detroit and carried to the third precinct and questioned relative to an alleged charge against him of a murder of Patrolman Lester Johnson on January 18, 1930.

Smith was buried Sunday, Jan 26, at Carrollton cemetery. The funeral was private and nobody attended except his sister, Sarah Anderson, and a brother, Henry Smith. Both have kept themselves in seclusion and have refused to make any statements.

According to Mr. Willie, who embalmed the body, conditions of the body showed that there had been no thorough autopsy held; that his skull was crushed and other marks of beating on his head, and that from all indications, the bullet had been inflicted post-morten.

It is generally believed that he was beaten to death in New Orleans by detectives and carried into Jefferson parish and shot in the right side of his neck by a right-handed detective who reports that he was in a scuffle with Smith at the time he was shot.

A check-up on other involvements show that there would be no feasible reason for the body to be turned over to a white undertaker and ther delivered to a Negro undertaker.

Willie stated that in former instances of death of Negroes, he had been called directly to the scene to pick up the body and autopsy made at his establishment.

When first ordered to make the investigation, District Attorney Cocke informed the Press club that since the murder had occurred in Jefferson parish, it was out of his jurisdiction, and that the district attorney of Jefferson parish would have to initiate the investigation.

District Attorney John Fleury of Jefferson parish has already promised a thorough investigation and to bring the case to the attention of the grand jury of that parish.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Shooting Of Prisoner By Police, Held For 10 Year Murder. Doubtful

JAN 30 19

NEW ORLEANS. (ANP)—Not since the "cell" death of Aaron Boyd in August of 1938 have Negroes of this section been as concerned over a police killing as they are over the death of Wilbert Moore, 37, who was shot and killed by Detective Chief William Grosch when Moore allegedly tried to escape while in custody of Grosch and Detective Andrew Arnold.

The killing occurred about 6:30 p. m. Wednesday when the officers were reported to have been enroute to Vacherie with Moore to search for a gun that was said to have been used in the slaying of Patrolman Lester Johnson, 39, on January 18, 1930.

Early in December Moore was arrested in Detroit as a suspect of the 10-year-old murder. He admitted his identity, but denied that he had anything to do with the killing. Officers from New Orleans were delayed several weeks by court action but finally got permission to bring the man back to Louisiana. They arrived in the city shortly before 6 p. m., and Moore was killed before 6:30.

JAN 30 194

Killed in Half Hour

According to Grosch, Moore engaged him in a fight when they stopped on the Air-Line highway a half-mile from the Orleans parish line. Moore, the detective said, struck him on the head with both fists, being handcuffed, and knocked him down. When he regained his feet, said Grosch, the prisoner linked his arms around his neck and attempted to choke him. The detective said he drew his revolver and attempted to hit Moore with it, but was unsuccessful. He then shot him in the neck killing him instantly.

The citizens of New Orleans are skeptical of the story told by the police officer. They expressed a disbelief that a handcuffed man would attempt to overpower two armed officers; that the second detective, Andrew Arnold, would sit calmly by and not attempt to aid another officer engaged in a fight with a prisoner; that if the man were on the way to Vacherie, La., as they stated, what "evidence" were they looking for that might aid them in solving a murder committed in 1930, especially since the road was constructed after that time?

Many persons have expressed belief that the prisoner was taken for a "ride". Grosch said that Moore confessed the fatal shooting, but it was not stated whether the confession was verbal or written. The killing for which Moore was suspected occurred in 1930 when Patrolman Lester Johnson jumped from a street car and stopped a man who was driving an automobile. The officer was shot when he attempted to beat the man with a blackjack. It was said that the ownership of the car was traced to Moore.

According to reports, several local civic organizations are asking an investigation of the killing through the district attorney's office.

11201

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Police Slaying Of Prisoner Who Surrenders Self In 1930 Murder Arouses New Orleans: Ask Probe

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FEB 2

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Shot in Escaping

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Suspected of 1930 Slaying

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Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Suspect Is Shot Thru Neck

Attorney General Promises Press An Investigation

JAN 30 1941

NEW ORLEANS, La.—It was almost assured here this week that the killing of Willmer Smith by Detective Police William Grosch will be investigated, according to Attorney General Eugene Stanley, and District Attorney, John E. Fleury of Jefferson Parish.

Smith was recently returned from Detroit, after having waged an unsuccessful court fight against extradition, according to information received from Detroit.

New Orleans Press Club, upon learning that Smith was shot through the neck by Detective Grosch less than an hour after he had arrived in New Orleans, asked the Attorney General to order an investigation, stating that they believed that the report turned in by Detective Grosch was not the true course of the murder.

Grosch had stated that after a short questioning of Smith at the Third Precinct Station in New Orleans, he had admitted the killing of Policeman Johnson ten years ago, and that Smith had told him the gun with which the officer was shot was in Vacharie, Louisiana with a sister; and that enroute to Vacharie, Smith had had a call of nature, and upon getting out of the car with Detective Grosch had struck Grosch across the head with handcuffed hands, scuffling with him and attempting to choke him.

SHOT THRU NECK

It was during this scuffle, and after Detective Arnold Grosch had called to Detective Arnold who was driving the car, that Grosch pulled his pistol and shot the man through the neck.

Unofficial investigation by the New Orleans Press Club revealed the impossibilities of the procedure in this matter, and upon seeing the body of the slain man it was felt that his death was a "streamlined lynching."

Attorney General Stanley, in a letter to the New Orleans Press Club, stated that he had requested District Attorney J. Bernard Cocke of Orleans Parish to make a full investigation of this matter and report back to him concerning the same. He also promised that he would advise the Press Club upon hearing from the District Attorney.

PROMISES INVESTIGATION

A copy of the letter to Attorney General Stanley was sent to District Attorney John E. Fleury of Jefferson Parish, since it was in Jefferson Parish that Smith was supposed to have been slain. District Attorney Fleury immediately answered copy of Stanley's letter stating, "This is to advise you that the matter will receive my attention, and be brought to the attention of the Grand Jury of Jefferson Parish when that body convenes in session."

It is that Smith was the victim of excessive police brutality, and that he was deliberately killed by New Orleans Police Department.

Expressions have been given that the Governor of Michigan who issued the extradition is as much responsible for Smith's death as the officers who killed him.

NEW ORLEANS AROUSED OVER POLICE SLAYING OF PRISONER

The Call
Kansas City, Mo.
JAN 31 1941

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The Call

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Kansas City, Mo.

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37 o-1941

LOUISIANA

6654

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Grand Jury Frees Cops In La. Extradition Murder

GRETNA, La.—The Jefferson parish grand jury returned a no-true bill against Detectives William Grosch and Andrew Arnold for the murder of Wilmer Smith on January 16.

Smith was extradicted to New Orleans from Detroit charged with the shooting of a patrolman in 1930. The detectives reported that en route to Zachery to secure a gun which the prisoner is said to have used in the slaying of the policeman, he attempted to escape and in a scuffle was shot through the neck.

MAY 31 1941

Attorney General Orders Investigation

Atty. Gen. Eugene Stanley, at the request of Negro newspapers, ordered an investigation which was launched by Dist. Atty. J. Bernard Rocke. The body was exhumed and an autopsy performed to determine the nature of wounds.

The autopsy was performed under the direction of Coroner Cole of Orleans Parish and Smith was found to have died from loss of blood and shock from gun shot wound through the head. This was the first time in the history of the South that a Negro slain by officers of the law had been exhumed.

Turning over the report of the findings to the attorney general, District Attorney Stanley, ordered Jefferson Parish authorities to make a thorough investigation into the case. District Attorney John Fleury of Jefferson parish brought the case before the Jefferson grand jury. He was assisted by Special Assistant Attorney General Culligan.

Among other things the exhumation disclosed that Smith had been dumped into a muddy grave without any clothing, box or coffin. According to a statement of the grave digger, Smith's body together with that of a woman, who had died from an overdose of dope, were buried in the same grave. Both bodies were wrapped in sheeting and brought to the cemetery in a basket.

MAY 31 1941

Says Many Such Burials

J. T. Willie, undertaker who buried Smith's body, stated that many undertakers in the city are guilty of like practices. His statement was verified by the grave-digger of the Corrollton cemetery. A representative of the Lietz-Egan undertakers, white, who were the first to get the Smith body, stated that the practice is in violation of city health ordinances and should be taken to task. Local undertakers were aroused over the disclosure and planned to bring the case before the city and state authorities.

6655

370-1941

Times-Picayune
New Orleans, La.

KILLING OF NEGRO BY DETECTIVE PUT UNDER NEW PROBE

Body to Be Exhumed for Detailed Study of Fatal Wound

MAR 5 1941

District Attorney J. Bernard Cocke, opening an investigation of the death of Wilbur Moore, 37-year-old Negro who was shot and killed January 15 while allegedly attempting to escape from two New Orleans detectives, Tuesday ordered exhumation of the Negro's body.

The Negro was shot and killed after being returned from Detroit by Detectives William Grosch and Andrew Arnold to face trial for the slaying of a New Orleans policeman in 1930.

District Attorney Cocke requested Dr. C. Grenes Cole, coroner, to exhume Moore's body, which was buried in the Carrollton cemetery, and to hold an autopsy. The prosecuting attorney requested that Dr. Cole's report be full, complete and detailed as to the cause of death and the number and character of any wounds found on the body. Later Dr. Cole said he would exhume the body on Thursday.

MAR 5 1941

To Represent Sleuths

Dr. George Roeling, former Orleans parish coroner, has been selected to represent Detectives Grosch and Arnold at the autopsy, and Dr. M. R. Davidson, 3626 La Salle street, will represent a number of Negro organizations which have protested to Attorney General Eugene Stanley and District Attorney Cocke about the death of Moore. District Attorney Cocke said Dr. Cole had been requested to invite Dr. M. M. Odom, coroner of Jefferson parish, to be present.

At the time of Moore's death which according to police occured on the Air-Line Highway a half mile from the Orleans parish line the coroner held an inquest and reported that the Negro's death resulted from a pistol wound of the neck. He classified the death as a homicide.

Charged With Murder

Indicted for murder in connection with the fatal shooting of Patrolman Lester Johnson, 39, 2826 LaPage street, at Esplanade avenue and North Rampart street, on January 18, 1930, Moore was arrested in Detroit early in December.

Detective Grosch, who shot the Negro in the throat, said that he and Detective Arnold were en route to Vacherie with the prisoner to search for the gun used in the slaying of the policeman when about a half mile above the Orleans parish line the Negro engaged him in a fight.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Exhume Body Of Prisoner Slain By N. O. Police

370

MAR 1 31941

By SAMUEL HOSKINS

NEW ORLEANS—(ANP)—Climaxing a six-week fight on part of Negro newspapermen of New Orleans and several organizations, civic and religious, District Attorney J. Bernard Cocke, Orleans Parish, had exhumed for examination the body of Wilmer Smith, alias Wilbert Moore, who was shot and killed while in custody of Detectives William Grosch and Andrew Arnold shortly after the pair had returned here from Detroit, where Smith was arrested on an 11-year-old murder charge.

In a letter to Coroner C. G. Cole, Cocke asked for a "full, complete and detailed report" concerning the circumstances surrounding the police killing.

"In view of the conflicting evidence as to the wound or wounds which caused, or may have caused the death of Wilmer Smith, as well as the circumstances surrounding his death, I believe, in justice to all parties involved, that an exhumation of the body of Wilmer Smith should be made by the Coroner of the parish of Orleans I further believe that as coroner of the parish of Orleans an autopsy should be made upon the body of Smith . . . to determine the exact cause of death," declared the district attorney.

MAR 1 31941

Present at the exhumation were Coroner Cole, Coroner M.M. Odum, Jefferson parish; Dr. N. R. Davidson, representing the Negro interested groups; Dr. George Roeling, representing Detectives Grosch and Arnold; District Attorney Cocke and Special Assistant to the District Attorney Alfred Malone; and newspapermen.

The body was buried in the Carrolton cemetery January 21, after being held six days by the J. T. Willie Undertaking establishment. The spectators were totally unprepared for what they saw when it was found out that the body had been buried nude and without casket. The unmarked grave was wedged in a three-foot space between two other graves, and when the cemetery attendants lifted the body from the narrow, shallow hole with ropes, it was revealed that the man had been placed in an almost face downward

MAR 1 31941

Undertaker Willie was not present to explain the manner in which the man had been buried, but it is reputed that he was paid for the funeral services.

SHOT IN BACK

Coroner Cole's report was to the effect that the man had died from a gun shot wound in the right side of the neck, and which had passed upward from the brain and out through the top of the head. He stated that there were no other signs which indicated that the man had been beaten before death. District Attorney Cocke, however stated that the investigation would be completed, as there were one or two other angles that must be cleared up, and that he wanted to study in detail the coroner's report.

The exhumation of Smith was the first time in the history of the state that the body of a Negro has been exhumed after burial to determine whether or not a police killing was murder.

The coroner's report, however, did not throw any additional light upon the testimony of the two detectives that Smith was killed as he grappled with Grosch in an attempt to escape. They stated that they were taking the prisoner to Vacherie, La, to search for a gun with which he was said to have committed the murder, declaring that Smith had confessed the killing of Patrolman Lester Johnson, Jan. 18, 1930. But no written confession had been produced by the department.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

LA. INVESTIGATES MOORE'S MURDER; BODY IS EXHUMED

370

NEW ORLEANS, La., March 12.—The loud and persistent clamoring for an investigation into the murder of Wilbur Moore, 37, by City Detective William Grosch, forced District Attorney J. Bernard Cocke last Friday to order the exhuming and performance of an autopsy upon the body of Moore to determine the circumstances surrounding his death.

Coroner C. Genes Cole had the body exhumed and examined in the presence of Dr. R. M. Davidson and members of the Negro press. Dr. Davidson represented the N. A. A. C. P. and allied organizations. The coroner would not make a public statement to the press but did say there were no bruises or marks on the body as reported by Coroner N. M. Odom of Jefferson Parish.

Those gathered at the grave were surprised when Moore's body was brought to the surface bare of all clothes. Speculation became rife as to the reason the man was buried nude since the city had paid a colored undertaker to bury the body. On belief [illegible] undertaker says he did not get paid.

Moore was slain by Detective Grosch last January 18 while handcuffed and being taken by Grosch and another officer to Vacherie, La., in the supposed search for a revolver which Moore used in the slaying of a policeman 10 years ago. Grosch claims Moore grappled with him as they got off the car on the Air Line Highway in Jefferson Parish and that he shot in self defense although the prisoner was handcuffed.

Following an inquest into Moore's death a coroner's jury returned a verdict of homicide, reporting that death resulted from a gun shot wound in the neck.

The N. A. A. C. P., ministers and civic leaders demanded an investigation by state and city prosecutors because Grosch had killed several Negroes under similar circumstances.

Moore was arrested in Detroit early in December for the slaying of Policeman Lester Johnson on January 18, 1930. He was brought back to New Orleans to stand trial and was killed shortly after alight[illegible] from the train.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

EXHUME BODY OF MAN SLAIN BY COP

MAR 15 1941



MAR 15 1941

When they exhumed the body of Wilbert Smith in New Orleans Thursday morning, it developed that it had been buried by the undertaker seemingly without clothing and without having been placed in a coffin. The body had to be hosed in order to remove the mud from it in the cemetery. Smith was extradited recently from Detroit, charged with the murder of a policeman. A few hours after he was delivered to New Orleans he was taken out of the city, allegedly en route to Vacherie to secure the gun he used, and with his handcuffs still on, was shot to death. The coroner affirmed the first decision that he met death as a result of a gun shot. He was exhumed to ascertain if he had been killed in some way other than by the shot. Photo shows Smith's exhumed body being borne to the ambulance en route to the coroner's office.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Race Worker's Job Too Easy; Shot By Mob

OCT 25 1941

FLUKER, La., Oct. 26—Feeling ran high in this small Louisiana town last week when a mob of angry white workers is alleged to have severely beaten and shot 50-year-old Thomas Fields in Rosedale, a few miles from here. Thomas is said to have been attacked by several of his white co-workers at a Fluker mill because they objected to his "easy" job while they did the heavy work.

According to information gathered by the New Orleans Press Club representatives, Fields had a dispute with the white workers last Monday when they attempted to force him to do some work for which he was not assigned. The manager sustained Fields in his position and the mob became angry.

After the day's work Fields went over to Rosedale where the mob followed him. They found him on a street corner and proceeded to brutally beat the man. While Fields, bleeding profusely, was lying on the ground one of the mob drew a revolver and fired a bullet into the aged man's body.

Fields is confined to a hospital in a critical condition and is not expected to recover. No attempt has been made, to date, to identify or arrest the members of the mob.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Exhume Man's Body In 10-Year-Old Mystery

MAR 15 1941

NEW ORLEANS — Upon order from District Attorney J. Bernard Cocke of Orleans Parish, Coroner Cole last week exhumed the body of Wilbert Smith, who was shot and killed here January 15 by Detective William Grosch. An autopsy was performed upon Smith's body and cause of death was found to be from shock and loss of blood after gunshot wound in the head, the same report that was given by Coroner Odom of Jefferson parish immediately after the shooting.

PROBE TO CONTINUE

NEW ORLEANS, La.—According to a statement issued by District Attorney J. Bernard Cocke, the exhumation and autopsy of Wilbert Smith's body does not close the case, so far as his office is concerned. The autopsy supervised by Coroner Grenes Cole, proved conclusively that the body exhumed and identified by the undertaker to be Smith's met its demise from a bullet wound in the head but does not prove shooting to have been justifiable or in self defense.

Other pertinent information relative to the killing will be investigated to determine whether or not Smith was the victim of police murder.

Smith was extradited here from Detroit.

Negro organizations and newspapermen asked for an investigation into the killing when it was reported that Smith had been shot while in the custody of two armed policemen, handcuffed, when he attemped to escape. Smith had been in town less than an hour when he was shot.

Police claimed that Smith had verbally confessed the murder of a policeman in 1930 and that they were taking him to get a gun with which he allegedly had shot the policeman. The gun was said to have been left at his sister's home in Vacherie.

MAR 15 1941

Detective Grosch had gotten out of the car with Smith when he was attacked by the handcuffed prisoner. He claims to have called to Detective Andrew Arnold who was driving the car, for aid. Smith, according to the detectives, had managed to get the handcuffs around his neck and was choking him, when he drew his gun, struck Smith once, shot one shot in the air to frighten him, then shooting the fatal shot that entered through the right side of the neck and ranged upward through the head.

After exhumation of Smith's body, it was identified by a local undertaker who performed the mortuary work and who had stated to the district attorney that he believed that Smith had been shot post-mortem. Several conflicting statements as to the positions of wounds on Smith's body necessitated the exhumation, District Attorney Cocke stated.

The body was found to be lying in the grave, reputedly, where two bodies had been buried and not in a box or coffin. It was very muddy, but materially in good condition for an autopsy. The autopsy was witnessed by newspapermen and Dr. N. R. Davidson, representing Negro interests. All corroborated the report of the coroner as to the cause of death.

6656

37 o-19-1
Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

GOVERNOR OF OLD BAY STATE IGNORES WRIT

Releases Man Held For A Knife Assault On One Of Mob Members

BOSTON, Mass. — A possible lynching was averted and a blow against mob rule struck when Governor Leverett Saltonstall of this state returned, unsigned and unhonored, extradition papers for Private Andrew Harmon Ford, formerly of Cheraw, S. C., to the governor of South Carolina, on May 1[illegible].

Unsung hero in the case is Levi G. Byrd, treasurer of the Cheraw branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who endangered his life to notify the Boston branch and the national office of N.A.A.C.P. of the case and to urge that they act to prevent Ford from being returned to South Carolina.

Private Ford has returned to Camp Edwards near here where he enlisted after fleeing an angry mob. He was accused of having assaulted with intent to kill, Frank Stokes, white, of Cheraw.

Ford was attacked on a Cheraw street by Stokes and several other white men who kicked and beat him. In self-defense he slashed Stokes with a knife, escaped and made his way to Camp Edwards where the South Carolina police followed him with demands for his return to that state.

Special credit also goes to Ray W. Guild, president of the Boston branch N.A.A.C.P. who pled [illegible]'s cause and was largely instrumental in preventing his being turned over to the Southern police

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Mob Kills White Man for Halting Beating

WINONA, Miss.—(ANP)—Jim Stewart, white, died here Tuesday morning from several bullet wounds he received Monday in an effort to rescue James Irving, his farm tenant, from a beating by a small group of armed whites near Tomnolen.

It is feared that Irving will not live. The peace officer is holding three white men, in connection with the crime and two colored men and a colored woman for safe-keeping.

6658

"Ready To Die For Children" Says Mother Who Halted Mob

"I told them I was ready to die. With my children here in the house and they attacking my house with bricks I was determined that my own body would be the only target they hit. I am not afraid to die. I don't run. If they were going to kill me they just had to kill me standing there."

In these words Mrs. Nettie Barnes, mother of three children, described Monday details of the mob attack on her home at 71 High Street last Tuesday in which she routed six white leaders of the mob by stabbing at them with an ice pick. At First Precinct court last week Mrs. Barnes and a nephew of hers, Herbert Sydnor were held in $1000 bail each for trial pending the outcome of injuries to Jerry Malanga, her Italian neighbor who led the mob. A hearing was scheduled for Wednesday. Mrs. Barnes was freed in custody of her lawyer.

Mrs. Barnes, extremely distressed over the fact that she had never been arrested or in trouble before faced a trial simply because she protected her home against a mob of men who stoned it with bricks, a hatchet at her, and tried to murder Sydnor, told the inside story of the attack Monday.

Neighbor Opposed Negroes

"John Malanga, my next door neighbor for five years, does not want Negroes to walk in his back yard," she began. "Herbert, my niece's husband who was visiting here, went out to quiet some noise the children were making that afternoon. In doing so he happened to step into Malanga's yard. He and Malanga then started arguing, Malanga shouting down from upstairs. I, myself, never had any trouble with Malanga because I like to live quiet.

"Gang" Arrives

"Herbert came back into the house. Then another son of Malanga called to his brother Jerry to 'bring the gang around.' The 'gang' came, led by Jerry. They marched up to my door. I stood in the door and told them they'd never get by.

"'Get out of the way,' they ordered. 'We're going in to kill that man (Herbert).'

"I grabbed the ice pick and told them they'd never get by me.

Begin to Stone Home

"I struck at them and stabbed several. They ran out and found a pile of bricks. They began heaving these at me as I stood there in the door. I dodged the bricks but did not move back. I picked up one of the bricks and hurled it back. Young Malanga ducked, but he ducked too late. The brick brought him down. Then John Malanga, the father, came out and threw his axe at me. I jumped up and the ax passed under my feet.

Big Crowd Gathers

"A huge crowd was gathered in the street by this time. But a radio car passed right through it and did not even stop. I called across the street to neighbors to send for the police. One man ran all the way to the First Precinct. Six cars soon came back.

"The police immediately began after me. Old man Malanga said I had thrown an axe and struck his son. I told the police Malanga had thrown the axe at me. Before the police came Malanga had run in and got the axe and hid it in his cellar. The police insisted I had used the axe and searched my home until they found another hatchet. I told them to search Malanga's cellar for the real axe. They refused.

Taken to Station

"The police threw Herbert and me into a car. I asked them why they did not get the men who attacked my house. They told me to shut up. I told them there was no one to look after my children.

"'Someone will look after them,' I was told.

"Then they did pick up one or two of the gang. Jerry Malanga had been taken to the hospital.

"At the precinct we waited two hours. Then detectives brought in Jerry Malanga with his head bleeding. The boy knew me, but he pointed to Herbert and said: 'That's the man who threw the axe at me.' Later a medical exam showed no axe hit him. It was that brick.

"The detectives handcuffed Herbert, then tried to handcuff me. I told them they would never put them things on my arm. Another officer told the detective to let me alone.

"They took us to police headquarters. The detective tried to deny there he had tried to put handcuffs on me."

Distressed at Arrest

Mrs. Barnes almost went into tears over the fact that "it is a sin to be arrested." When told she was the heroine, not the culprit in the encounter, she would not be solaced. She begged that did not even want to contact her church, the Queen of All Angels Church.

"I want the matter to quiet down as soon as possible," she declared. "They freed me in my lawyers custody but they held Herbert."

Reporters visiting the scene were stared at length by neighbors.

6659

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

NOV 1 1941

Cite O'Dwyer's Jim-Crow Bias in Negro's Frameup

NOV 1 1941

Communist Candidate Exposes Record in Williams Case

District Attorney William F. O'Dwyer, who has sought anxiously to win Negro votes since his nomination by the Democratic leaders for Mayor, was guilty of flagrant Jim Crow bias in the alleged case of "rape" against John Williams, it was charged yesterday by Peter V. Cacchione, Brooklyn Communist candidate for the City Council.

Williams, a Brooklyn Negro youngster to whose excellent character five white women neighbors testified, was arrested on Dec. 28, 1938, on what Cacchione termed "a typical trumped-up charge of rape." He was convicted by an all-white jury and sentenced to seven and a half to 15 years.

The sentence was reversed on appeal, but Williams was tried again on the lesser charge of "attempt to rape." Again he was convicted by an all-white jury and again the verdict was reversed by the Appellate Division. The second conviction was reversed May 7, 1940, after Williams had spent a year and a half in jail.

STILL HELD WILLIAMS

O'Dwyer was reluctant to release Williams even after the second reversal of conviction, and on June 3, 1940, 25 men and women picketed O'Dwyer's office, demanding that the youth be set at liberty. At the same time they presented O'Dwyer with a giant petition to the same effect signed by 10,000 residents of the Bedford - Stuyvesant section. The demonstration and the petition were organized by the Communist Party.

O'Dwyer shouted that he was being "intimidated," ordered an investigation and possible grand jury action against the leaders of the demonstration, whom he called "traitors," and said he was going to send the names of the petition signers to the FBI.

"If that record doesn't show bias," asked Cacchione yesterday, "what does?"

The campaign on behalf of Cacchione will be carried into the heart of Brooklyn's crowded downtown shopping district at its busiest time of the week when an open-air rally is held at 3:30 o'clock this afternoon in front of Loeser's department store, 484 Fulton St.

Israel Amter, Communist councilmanic candidate from Manhattan, has spent a lifetime fighting for the needs of the women and children of the working people, Sadie Van Veen told a radio audience over station WAAT. She is Mrs. Amter in private life.

"Amter spoke for suffrage which women now enjoy, for equality before the law, for women's right to a higher education, and today Amter wants to see the women of New York organized and ready to defend their country by taking part in national defense," she said.

Amter will make his first appearance in the needle trades market 11:30 A.M. today at 15th St. and Fifth Ave., a men's clothing center.

He will wind up his campaign Monday night on the East Side where he has lived for many years and where he has always received his largest vote.

Isidore Begun, Bronx Communist candidate for City Council, turns "prosecutor" tonight as Charles A. Lindbergh stands trial before "jury" of Bronx citizens as a menace to American security.

The novel election campaign meeting was arranged by a group of 8th Assembly District citizens supporting Begun for Council. The rally will be replete with torchlights with an extra flare of color added in the burning of Hitler in effigy.

The rally will take place at 8:30 P.M., at the corner of Walton and Burnside Aves. A children's fife and drum corps will add a touch of old-fashioned election campaign flavor. Leaflets and invitations have been widely circulated throughout the neighborhood.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

4 White Hoodlums Slay Race Farmer

APR 26 1941

APR 26 1941

GASTONIA, N. C., April 24—In connection with the shotgun slaying near Cherryville in this county, Sunday afternoon, of Robert Melker, farmer, four young white men, Heywood Dellinger and Graham Dellinger, brothers, Robert Sellers and Fred Hudson, are being held in jail here without bond.

According to the account of the fatal shooting by Sheriff Clyde Robinson, the four white men, riding in an automobile, passed Melker and his wife as they walked along the road, and yelled at them. When Melker replied, he said, the four became enraged, stopped the car and getting out, pelted the couple until they took refuge in their house located just off the roadway, nearby.

APR 26 1941

A moment later, the Sheriff said, Melkers' mother, Mrs. Elvira Melker, appeared on the porch of the home with a shotgun and fired it at the group of men, with the result that Sellers received several superficial face wounds. Leaving, he stated, the four men obtained shotguns, returned to the Melker home, called Melker, and when he came to the door, shot him to death. After the Sheriff and his deputies had rounded up and arrested two of the group, the other two surrendered.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

4 Gastonia Lynchers Arrested in Negro Death

APR 28 1941

Action Reflects Strong Negro-White Unity in Textile Town

(Special to the Daily Worker)

GASTONIA, N. C., April 27.—Increased unity of white and Negro workers had today resulted in the arrest of four white hoodlums for the lynch slaying last Sunday of Robert Melker, Cherryville Negro farmer.

Held in jail without bond in this town famous for the militancy of its textile workers are Heywood Dellinger and Graham Dellinger, brothers; Robert Sellers and Fred Henderson, positively identified as the killers of Melker when the Negro tried to protect his wife from their insults.

The lynching of Melker recalled the slaying of Ella May Wiggins, white union textile worker and singer of workers songs, by a mob of deputies during the famous Gastonia strike of 1929.

APR 28 1941

THIRD LYNCH VICTIM

Melker is the third lynch victim of 1941, the other two being Private Felix Hall, Negro soldier, whose decomposed body was found hanging from a tree three weeks ago near Fort Benning, Ga., and Oscar Hambrick, shot down by Policeman T. J. Bowen of Atlanta on March 30.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in New York City today revealed that J. B. Henry, Negro defense project worker believed to have been lynched at Camp Blanding, Fla., on Jan. 8, was still alive after having spent some time in a Florida hospital.

APR 28 1941

Sheriff Clyde Robinson, of Gastonia, said that the shooting of Melker occurred when the four hoodlums, riding in an automobile, passed the Negro farmer and his wife walking along the road. When Melker replied, he said, the four stopped their car, got out, and began beating the couple until they took refuge in their house just off the roadway.

APR 28 1941

A moment later, according to the Sheriff's version, Mrs. Elvira Melkers appeared on the porch with a shotgun and fired it at the four men, inflicting superficial face wounds on Sellers.

The four men, the Sheriff said, then left the house, later returning with shotguns. They then called Melker to the door and shot him to death.

After two of the killers had been captured by the officers, the other two surrendered.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

WON'T ARREST CLEVELANDER WHO SHOT BOY

NOV 8 1941

Victim Of Rape Scare Is Wounded By Would-Be Ohio Mobbists

370

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Claim for substantial damages under the Ohio Mob Law Act was to be sought of county commissioners this week by Atty. Chester K. Gillespie in behalf of George Smith, 17, Miles Heighth section of Cleveland, through the boy's father, Allen.

George was shot in Garfield park last Saturday allegedly by John R. Dodds, white of Garfield Height. Efforts to have Dodd's arrested by Garfield Heights police were made in vain by Gillespie who was unable to find a justice of the peace who would issue a warrant for Dodds and the other white men who "mobbed" the Miles Heights lad.

NOV 8 1941

The story as related by the father follows: "On Saturday, Oct. 25, George went fishing in Garfield park. After fishing a while he ran out of bait. He went up the hill to dig some bait from under the stones and around some shrubbery.

"While George was digging the bait, a white boy passed him going up the hill, but George says he had not paid the white boy any attention as he passed him. On top of the hill a white woman was walking with several dogs.

"The white boy told the woman that there was a Negro watching from behind the bushes. The woman and boy stood there a few minutes talking. Shortly the woman walked over to an automobile that was parked nearby.

"Meanwhile, George had completed digging his bait and had gone back to resume his fishing.

A little later two men drove up in a car.

"One man, John Dodds, jumped out of the car armed with a .22 rifle. The other man an the boy picked up stones as if preparing to make an attack on young Smith. Dodds covered the youth with the rifle and told him to raise his hands or be shot. George, of course became frightened and began to run and Dobbs shot him through the knee. When Dodds threatened to fire again George limped back suffering from his wound. The men grabbed him, placed him in the car and hustled him to the Garfield Heights police station.

"The police took him to a doctor who dressed his wound and he is now at his home awaiting action of the police department.

The woman told police that young Smith had said absolutely nothing to her."

6662

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Mob Loses Possible Lynching Victim When Gov. Of Mass. Turns Down Extradition Plea

BOSTON, Mass. — A possible lynching was averted and a blow against mob rule struck when Governor Leverett Saltonstall of this state returned, unsigned and unhonored, extradition papers for Private Andrew Harmon Ford, formerly of Cheraw, S. C., to the Governor of South Carolina, on May 16th.

Unsung hero in the case is Levi G. Byrd, treasurer of the Cheraw branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People who endangered his life to notify the Boston branch and national office of the NAACP of the case and to urge that they act to prevent Ford from being returned to South Carolina.

Private Ford has returned to Camp Edwards near here where he enlisted after fleeing an angry mob. He was accused of having assaulted with intent to kill, Frank Stokes, white of Cheraw. Ford was attacked on a Cheraw street by Stokes and several other white men who kicked and beat him. In self-defense he slashed Stokes with a knife, escaped and made his way to Camp Edwards where the South Carolina police found him.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Mob Loses Lynch Victim; S. C. Extradition Vetoed

BOSTON, Mass.—A possible lynching was averted and a blow against mob rule struck when Governor Leverett Saltonstall of this state returned, unsigned and unhonored, extradition papers for Private Andrew Harmon Ford, formerly of Cheraw, S. C., to the governor of South Carolina, on May 16.

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Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Lynching Feared If Soldier Sent Back To Carolina

MAY 21 1941 370

BOSTON, Mass.— (SNS) — Police officials from Cheraw, South Carolina, are in this city to extradite Private Andrew Harmon Ford, 1, accused of attacking Frank Stokes, white, of Cheraw, with a knife.

Private Ford has been taken from Camp Edwards near here and placed in jail in East Cambridge where he was interviewed by Ray W. Guild president of the Boston branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who will appear as counsel for Ford.

It is feared that if Ford is returned to South Carolina he will be lynched.

He is accused of unprovoked assault with intent to kill, but witnesses say that Ford was accosted on the street in Cheraw, kicked by Stokes who was joined by several other white men who began to beat the colored boy. It as reported that the boy defended himself with a knife and escaped, finally reaching the army post where he enlisted. Colored citizens of Cheraw do not believe he will get a fair trial.

AccordiMAY 21 1941 Ford has no criminal record and his military record is of the best.

As soon as facts in the case are obtained the NAACP will take action.

S. Carolina
370

370-1941

TENNESSEE

6664

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Tennessee Minister Terms Police Slaying A 'Lynching'

FEB 20 1941

By EDNA GERMAINE

SPARTA, Tenn.—(ANP)—"Roscoe Oldham was lynched" thundered the Rev. W. C. Adams, 75 year old pastor of Kyneeth Chapel Methodist church, officiating at the funeral services of the 25 year old Negro who was beaten and shot to death by a city policeman and constable in such a dastardly fashion the entire population, white and black is shocked.

Rev. Adams, a stately looking white haired man, resembled a brave general of ancient Sparta, Greece, as he stood in the pulpit

Pleads With Whites At Funeral "To Do Something About It"

FEB 20 1941

and preached the most unusual funeral sermon perhaps ever heard anywhere in the South.

This dynamic minister who was a peace officer for four years in South Carolina explained that when two officials armed with black jacks guns, a badge sneaked up behind a man, hit him on the back of the head and then shot him without once saying "consider yourself under arrest", there is no other definition than a lynching or crucifixion which when defined mean one and the same.

There were several white folks present as Oldham was liked by so many. He was the chauffeur of William Mitchell, State Senator. The minister declared this was "the first two man lynching" he had ever heard of "with at least four eyewitnesses".

He pleaded with the white women present to do something about such treatment among Negroes explaining they are the only ones who can. "The Negroes are helpless and the white men are so busy things just slip through their hands", he said.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

PREACHER SAYS COPS LYNCHED RACE MAN

MAR 1 1941 370

SPARTA, Tenn., Feb. 27 — (By Edna Germaine for ANP) — "Roscoe Oldham was lynched!" thundered the Rev. W. C. Adams, 75-year-old pastor of Kyneeth Chapel Methodist Church, officiating at the funeral services of the 25-year-old Negro who was beaten and shot to death by a city policeman and constable in such a dastardly fashion the entire population, white and black, is shocked.

The Rev. Mr. Adams, a stately looking white-haired man, resembled a brave general of ancient Sparta, Greece, as he stood in the pulpit and preached the most unusual funeral sermon perhaps ever heard anywhere in the South. This dynamic minister, who was a peace officer for four years in South Carolina, explained that when two officials armed with black-jacks, guns and a badge, sneaked up behind a man, hit him on the back of the head and then shot him without once saying "consider yourself under arrest," there is no other definition than a lynching or crucifixion which when defined means one and the same.

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Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

RAISES LYNCH CRY AT RITES

Minister Denounces Fatal Shooting of Man By Police

FEB 22 1941

SPARTA, Tenn.—Branding the fatal shooting by two city policemen of Roscoe Oldham, 25, as a lynching, W. C. Adams, pastor, Kyneeth Chapel Methodist Church here, last week, at the funeral services for Oldham, created a sensation.

Oldham met death when, it is said, two cops, armed with black jacks and guns, approached him from behind, hit him on the head, then shot him.

Several whites, attending the funeral of the youth who was chauffeur for State Senator William Mitchell, were appealed to by the minister to "do something about such treatment" of Negroes, characterizing Oldham's death as "the first two-man lynching . . . with at least four evewitnesses."

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

PREACHE SAYS COPS LYNCHED RACE MAN

MAR 1 1941 370

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Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

MOB ACTION AGAINST UNIONIST REPORTED

U. S. Probe Asked In South Fulton, Tenn., Trouble

OCT 25 1941

ATLANTA, Oct. 24. — (AP) — Frank McCallister, secretary of the Southern Workers Defense League, said Friday he had asked a Federal investigation of "mob action against a union organizer" in South Fulton, Tenn., on Oct. 10.

The secretary said he had written Atty. Gen. Francis Biddle that Palmer Pinnegar, 27-year-old organizer for the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (C.I.O.) was "seized by about 400 vigilantes while he was distributing union literature in South Fulton, and taken by the mob across the state line into Kentucky."

"There," Mr. McCallister continued, "the mob threatened to kill him unless he turned over his union cards which workers in the H. I. Siegel Pants Factory in Fulton, Ky., had signed."

OCT 25 1941

Mr. McCallister asserted he had pointed out to Mr. Biddle "there seemed to be no question about jurisdiction of the Federal Government since Mr. Pinnegar was carried across a state line . . ."

The action, Mr. McCallister contends, violated a section of the United States Criminal Code protecting civil rights of citizens engaged in practices protected by Federal law.

Mr. Pinnegar lives at Paducah, Ky.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

MOB WON'T LET LAWYER PLEAD CASE

DEC 20 1941

370

Lynchers Of Elbert Williams Threaten Memphis Attorney

By JAMES H. PURDY, JR.

BROWNSVILLE, Tenn. — The entire Race populace of this ordinarily quiet and peaceful little rural community that numbers well over 19,000 representing two-thirds of the entire population, was unaware that racial bitterness was brewing here last week.

They did not know that more than 300 whites had gathered at the Haywood County Court house and made threats to resort to mob violence if a Negro attorney was permitted to try an uncontested divorce case in the courtroom of their "for whites only" courthouse.

Atty. A. A. Latting of Memphis, who had been engaged to represent Mrs. Ethel Lee Motley of Memphis, in the County Courts of Haywood county here in her divorce case against her estranged husband, Jesse Motley, was emphatically told by a group of more than 300 whites that he could not try any kind of case in the court room here.

Attorney Latting said that he had driven to Brownsville, accompanied by his client and her witness on the morning of December 12. They arrived there about 9:45 a.m. and immediately went to the office of the county clerk and filed his briefs and military affidavits.

DEC 20 1941

Latting said when he entered the county clerk's office, the clerk appeared extremely nervous and said. "You can't try the case today." Latting asked, "Why?"

The clerk replied, "The Judge is out of the city and we don't know when he will return." Latting said, "He left the city knowing a case was set for today?" The clerk replied, "That's all I know."

Latting said, "Citizens, apparently a mob, began to crowd into the clerk's office while I was filing the affidavits. A spokesman for the group accosted me. He said, 'Ain't no nigger lawyer going to try a case in Haywood County, Tenn. We ain't goin' to stand for it. We ran one nigger lawyer out of here and if you know what is good for you—you better git.'"

Latting said he explained to the group that the case involved no racial issue and pointed out that their action was undemocratic. He told them he had registered and might be called for military service in the United States Army to fight for the principles of "Liberty, Justice and Equality" which were being denied him.

The spokesman's reply was: "We can't help that—you ain't trying no case in Haywood County, Tenn."

Latting said, after he found out that he could not try the case, he asked if there was some young white attorney he might talk to concerning the case. It was suggested that he talk with Atty. Aaron Kinney, president of the Chamber of Commerce.

Latting said that he found Attorney Kinney to be a liberal who understood his plight, but was powerless to do anything about it.

Kinney agreed to handle the case.

Judge T. J. Pearson of Haywood County court, was reached in his office, where he was discussing the divorce case with T. J. (Tip) Hunter, sheriff, who figured prominently in the Elbert Williams lynching here a year ago, and the case was tried at 1:30 p.m. that day and the divorce granted.

When the mob outside the courthouse, numbering more than 300 men learned that the divorce had been granted, they followed Latting, his client and her witness from Brownsville well into Shelby County, but turned back when Latting was stopped by a Shelby county deputy sheriff for speeding.

DEC 20 1941

National attention was focused on Brownsville and its mob violence about a year ago, when the limp decomposed body of Elbert Williams, 31, laundry employe, was found in the Hatchie river, after his wife, Mrs. Willie Williams had reported him missing seven days before.

On the night of June 16, 1940, a group of white men headed by T. J. (Tip) Hunter, then sheriff-elect, called at the Williams house and spirited Elbert Williams away.

The outbreak of mob violence resulted after several members of the Brownsville chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. headed by Williams had called upon Mayor J. O. Bomer about their right to vote in the forthcoming presidential election. Williams was never seen alive again after he was spirited away by Tip Hunter and his "posse."

A grand jury investigation was conducted on August 12, 1940 and their report read: "We the grand jury of Haywood county cannot find anyone responsible for the death of Elbert Williams, who was apparently lynched by the hands of unknown parties."

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

"COURT FOR WHITES ONLY," SAYS LYNCH TOWN'S MOB LEADER

DEC 27 1941

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BROWNSVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 24—(By James H. Purdy Jr., for ANP)—The entire colored populace of this ordinarily quiet and peaceful little rural community, that numbers well over 19,000 Negroes, representing two-thirds of the entire population, was unaware Friday that racial feeling of high tension was brewing. Nor were they aware that more than 300 whites had gathered at the Haywood County court house and made a verbal threat to resort to mob violence if a Negro attorney was permitted to try an uncontested divorce case in the courtroom of their "for whites" court house. This is the same town where Elbert Williams was lynched in 1940 as he sought to obtain the right to vote.

Atty. A. A. Latting of Memphis, Tenn., who had been engaged to represents Mrs. Ethel Lee Morley, Memphis, in the county courts of Haywood county at Brownsville, in her divorce case against her estranged husband, Jesse Morley, was emphatically told by a group of more than 300 whites that he could not try any kind of case in the Haywood county court room in Brownsville.

MOB GATHERED

Attorney Latting said that when he entered the county clerk's office, the clerk appeared extremely nervous and said, "You can't try the case today." Latting asked, "why?" The clerk replied, "The judge is out of the city and we don't know when he will return." Latting said, "He left the city knowing a case was set for today?" The clerk replied, "That's all I know."

Latting told this reporter, "Citizens, apparently a mob, began to crowd into the clerk's office while I was filing the affidavits. A spokesman for the group accosted me. He said, "Ain't no n——r lawyer going to try a case in Haywood county, Tenn. We ain't goin't to stand for it. We ran one n——r lawyer out of here and if you know what is good for you—you better git!"

NO RACE ISSUE IN CASE

DEC 27 1941

Latting said he explained to the group of men assembled that the case had no racial issue involved, and pointed out that the action of the group was undemocratic that he had registered and may be called to military service in the United States army to fight for the principles of "liberty, justice and equality," which principles were being denied him.

The spokesman's reply was: "We can't help that—you ain't trying no case in Haywood county, Tennessee."

Latting said that after he found out that he could not try the case, he asked if there was some young white attorney he could talk to concerning the case. It was suggested that he contact Atty. Aaron Kinney, president of the chamber of commerce.

WHITE LAWYER TAKES CASE

Attorney Latting said he found Attorney Kinney to be a liberal-minded, clean-cut man, who understood the plight of the Negro, but powerless to change the condition in this mob-infested community where the lawless element seeks to keep the Negro beneath their thumb. He explained if he voiced an utterance of disapproval, he, himself a white man, would fall a victim of their mobbist violence.

DEC 27 1941

After a lengthy discussion, Attorney Kinney agreed to ask the necessary questions that had already been prepared by Attorney Latting to get the divorce.

Judge T. J. Pearson of Haywood County court was reached in his office where he was discussing the divorce case with T. J. (Tip) Hunter, sheriff, who figured prominently in the Albert Williams lynching a year ago. After the telephone conversation by Attorney Kinney and the judge, the case was tried at 1:30 p.m. that day and the divorce granted.

When the group, now numbering more than 300 men of every description who had gathered outside the court house, learned that the divorce had been granted, a group of them followed Attorney Latting, his client and her witness from Brownsville well into Shelby county, but turned back when Attorney Latting was apprehended by a Shelby county deputy sheriff for speeding.

370-1941
Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

TENNESEE

6665

Memphis Attorney Receives Threats

DEC 16 1941

A. A. Latting Denied Right To Try Divorce Case In Brownsville, Tenn.

Brownsville, Tenn., county seat of Haywood County, in West Tennessee, scene of the lynching of Elbert Williams 31 year old laundry fireman, over a year ago because of his activities in the recently organized NAACP branch of that community, reflected the mob spirit again last week when a group of citizens of that community threatened Attorney A. A. Latting, young Memphis barrister, when he attempted to present a law case in the Haywood County court last Friday.

Mr. Latting was virtually chased out of the county by the mobsters. The attorney asserted that he would have probably met with violence, but for the fact that he outdistanced his pursuers. When he was arrested on a charge of speeding by Shelby county deputies, after crossing the Shelby County line, Attorney Latting explained why it was necessary for him to rush out of Brownsville.

SIMPLE DIVORCE CASE

DEC 16 1941

Mr. Latting had gone to Brownsville to represent Mrs. Ethel Lee Motley in an uncontested divorce case. He arrived in Brownsville around 9:45 wih his witness. Shortly after he had filed a military affidavit with the court clerk in connection with the case, a group of white residents of the town began crowding in the clerk's office. An unidentified spokesman for the group remarked:

"Ain't no 'N—r' lawyer going to try a case in Haywood County. We ain't goin' to stand for it. We ran one 'N—r' lawyer out of here and if you know what's good for you, you better 'git.'"

Mr. Latting said he tired to explain that he had only a simple uncontested divorce case...that no racial issue was involved and pointed out to the crowd that its action was undemocratic.

"I have registered and may be called for military service," the Memphian continued. "If I am called, it will be to fight for the principles of justice, liberty and equality which you are denying me."

"We can't help that," the spokesman for the mob said. "You ain't goin' to try no case in Haywood County."

Services of a white lawyer in Brownsville, Aaron Kinney, who is president of the town's chamber of commerce, were obtained by Mr. Latting. Mr. Kinney appeared in court and asked the questions necessary to obtain the divorce for Mr. Latting's client. Judge T. J. Pearson tried the case and granted Mrs. Motley her divorce around 1:30 p.m. Friday afternoon.

When it was learned that the case had been tried, the group followed Mr. Latting into Shelby County but turned back when the Memphian was apprehended by Shelby County deputies for speeding.

DEC 16 1941

Attorney Latting said that he had taken all the necessary appropriate steps to appear before the Haywood County court. The case listed as Ethel Lee Motley vs. Jessie Motley (No. 44) was filed in the Haywood County court around November 25th, and J. R. Moore, City Court Clerk, notified Mr. Latting that he could try his case any time after December 11th. Mr. Latting, immediately after hearing from the court clerk, called and had the date set for Friday, December 12th, at 10 a.m.

This was the second time within two years that a colored attorney had been prevented from practicing in Haywood County. A young Jackson, Tenn., lawyer had to be spirited out of Brownsville during the early part of 1940 when he attempted to represent a client involved in a shooting case. Jackson is the county seat of Madison County, which adjoins Haywood to the west.

The discovery of the decomposed body of Elbert Williams in the Hatchie river after he had been missing from home for several days brought to light the tense feeling between whites and Negroes of that community. Williams, who was one of the organizers of the Brownsville NAACP Branch, had been compelled to leave his home late at night by a group of Brownsville residents, including the Night Marshall, T. J. (Tip) Hunter and his whereabout afterwards remained a mystery until his body was discovered in the Hatchie. Several other prominent Negro townsmen of Brownsville fled the community in fear of violence, among these were Rev. Buster Walker, president of the NAACP; Eliza Davis, operator of a filling station at Brownsville; Alex Hill, Dewitt Cobb and Willie Williams.

DEC 16 1941

Reports that a group of Negroes from Jackson, Tenn., was coming to Brownsville for a "showdown" in the case resulted in the creation of a general mob atmosphere which lasted for several days. An investigation was subsequently made by the FBI, but no one was brought to trial in connection with Williams' death.

Haywood County has approximately four times as many Negroes as whites. However, the sore spot of the trouble was apparently the effort of Negroes to vote in that county which they had not done since 1884.

DEC 16 1941

37 o-1941
Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

TEXAS

6666

'Unwelcome Visitor'



The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

Mob Mutilates Men Who Had Affair With White Women

AUG 22 1941

PITTSBURG, Texas — A mob of two hundred white men forced their way into the Camp County Jail here this week and brutally attacked and mutilated two Negro men who were in jail serving out a vagrancy sentence. The two men had been accused by white citizens of having illicit relationship with two white prostitutes whose reputation had been known in and around the town for some time.

The mob entered the jail Wednesday night of last week in the absence of the sheriff and his wife and performed a crude operation on the two men which may result in their deaths. However, reports this week were that the men were recovering in a local hospital. The sheriff and his wife were both away visiting when the mob broke down the door and entered the jail. One of the two white women was still in jail last week serving out her fine, and the other had paid her fine and was

Investigation into the matter revealed that none of the mob was identified.

AUG 22 1941

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Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Rampant in Tex.

SEP 13 1941

PITTSBURG, Tex.—The Dallas branch of the NAACP recently launched a drive to raise funds to combat recurring instances of mob violence which have been stirring colored residents here during the past month.

The most recent instance was directed against two men who were being held in the county jail on charges of vagrancy. On August 20, while the sheriff was "absent," the jail was visited by a mob that took the men out and criminally mutilated them.

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The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

A Toast to the Killer--Texan Bourbons Celebrate Lynch-Slaying With Acquittal

(Special Wire to the Daily Worker from the Houston Informer)

HOUSTON, June 19.—The lynch-slaying of Bob White, who was killed in a Conroy courtroom here last week by W. S. Cochran, white plantation owner, took place in an atmosphere of intense anti-Negro hatred, it was learned by the Houston Informer, Negro weekly paper here. There was no evidence whatsoever, the Negro paper finds, to support a conviction.

The entire lynch-slaying of White took place in an atmosphere of intense anti-Negro hatred, spurred by the courts, police and press. During the trials Texas Rangers and special police made a mock showing of upholding "law and order" as race-feeling ran rampant and terrorized the Negro populace in Conroy.

White had been accused of raping Cochrane's wife. The first trial at Livingston, which had found him guilty, was reversed by the State Supreme Court because race hatred and lynch feeling had prejudiced the trial. The venue was changed by the prosecutor to Montgomery County at Conroy. This second trial was also reversed by the United States Supreme Court on the ground that the "confession" submitted had been obtained under duress.

"LAW" BY COCHRAN

It was then that Cochran, fully aware that under the legal process of law, White could never be convicted, sneaked up on White during the trial, fired bullet after bullet into the Negro's body in the courtroom and killed him.

Cochran, with the District Attorney calling for acquittal, was freed in two minutes by a jury that didn't even leave the box. He had been indicted for the killing on June 12, tried on June 16 and acquitted a few minutes after the case opened.

White's body, when brought to Houston for burial, was not even safe against the ghoulish incitements of the Southern poll-tax and lynch-shrieking bourbons. Special precautions had to be taken to give it a decent burial.

Indignation, mounting determination among the Negro people throughout the state that measures must be taken to shake off the terrible slave-terror symbolized in the Cochran killing and acquittal, was evident here.

The Cochran trial was not a trial, not a defense or prosecution—but a celebration by Texas war-mongers and Rooseveltian Democrats of Cochran's frightful act, it was the Informer's opinion.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Leader Lays Texas Lynching to War Hysteria

John Davis Flays Court Slaying, Urges Wider Negro Rights Fight

(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 18.—John P. Davis, secretary of the National Negro Congress, declared today that the recent murder of a Negro by a white landlord in a Texas court room should be the signal for a united drive by Negro and White Americans in "a day-to-day struggle for complete democratic rights for the Negro people."

The Negro Congress leader's statement on the murder of Robert Whipe and the subseqeunt acquittal of S. W. Cochran, the murderer, follows:

"In a court room in Texas, a brutal White plantation owner is permitted to shoot to death a Negro farm hand, who had twice had a conviction against him reversed by the highest court in Texas and by the U. S. Supreme Court. And the murderer of the Negro is permitted to go scot free by a jury which deliberated only two minutes.

"This shocking and ugly occurrence is a symbol of the denial to all the Negro people of even the simplest of their democratic rights. It is asymbol of the second-rate citizenship which powerful controlling forces in this country have long sought to impose upon

PERVERSION OF DEMOCRACY

"It is a black and ugly picture of the perversion of American democracy by the forces of reaction in our country who inflict lynching, disfranchisement and starvation on the Negro people, bayonets and destruction of collective bargaining rights on labor and a greedy bankers' war on the American people.

"These forces will never win. Yes, they have snuffed out the life of Robert White and let his murderer go free. Yes, they have still imprisoned five Scottsboro boys and lynched Negro soldiers in uniform. Yes, they have starved the Negro people out of the job life and out of the political life of the country—while at the same time holding themselvs out as champions of 'democracy.'

"But they cannot win because they cannot resist the rapidly growing unity of the Negro people and the progressive white people of this country.

URGES UNITED STRUGGLE

"The lesson of the murder of Robert White is that now is the time for every progressive in America to become an active day- to-day fighter for the cause of Negro freedom. In a thousand ways in every section of America, the lynch spirit against the Negro people prevails and is keeping pace with increasing war hysteria. In a thousand ways, every American, Negro and white, must beat back this fascist scourge by uniting in broadest numbers for a day-to-day struggle for compleio democratic rights for the Negro

"The murder of Robert White should be the signal for thousands and thousands of progressive Americans, particularly from the ranks of organized labor, to give their active aid to the building of the National Negro Congress as the fighting champion of democracy for the Negro people.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Offer Reward To Halt Texas Mob Violence

Church Group Is Target Of Savage Attack

WINNSBORO, Texas (ANP) — The American Civil Liberties union has offered a $500 reward to anyone supplying information leading to arrest, conviction and imprisonment for 30 days or more of any person or persons, who took part in the mob volence dericted against Jehovah's Witnesses here last August 23.

According to 23 sworn affidavits held by the union, 200 people led by city and county officials, an officer of the home guard and American legionnaires severely beat up a group of cult worshippers, one of whom had to be taken to the hospital. The avowed purpose of the attack was to drive the Witnesses out of town.

Telegrams sent to the governor and Texas Rangers, following the attack, brought no results. The governor failed to reply, and the squad of Texas rangers sent here sided with the mob leaders and refused aid to mob victims, According to the affidavits, two rangers were quoted as saying that if the victims attempted any action against the mob, their homes would be burned and they would be run out of the community.

Warrants for the arrest of mob leaders could not be obtained by the Witnesses' attorney beause local officials refused to cooperate solely in the interest of protecting the mob. The attorney was warned to lay off the case. Their refusal to issue warrants was held to be because they were condoning it or had participated in it.

The offer is made in the interest of protecting the civil rights of all citizens without distinction, and that the union has no connection with Jehova's Witnesses' assault.

Copies of the reward have been sent to the sheriff and prosecuting attorney here, and to U. S. District Attorney Clyde O. Eastus.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

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TEXAS

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Justice In Texas Much Worse Than Living Under Rule Of Gestapo

By WALTER CROSS

CONROE, Texas—Joseph Spell, central figure in an alleged case of rape, was freed in Connecticut and today walks the streets of New York. But Bob White, 31, twice convicted of attacking a white woman and each time saved from the electric chair by a higher court, was murdered in open court, Tuesday by the husband of his alleged victim. White's third trial opened here Monday.

The Spell-White parallel comes at a time when agitation for anti-lynching laws is carried apace with the appeals in Washington for a united democracy to face threats of aggression from abroad. In the North, Spell went free, not only from imprisonment, but also from bodily harm once he went on the street. Texas law fails even to protect the prisoner in open court, before the bar of justice.

Calm, Cool Murder.

W. S. Cochran, who owns miles of land in this section, went about killing White, calmly, methodically. **Just as the ninth juror had been** accepted, he jumped to his feet in the crowded courtroom, walked to **within one pace of White, surrounded as he was by armed** rangers, policemen and courtroom attendants, drew his .38 caliber revolver, and fired a bullet into White's brain. The act threw the court into mad excitement, but here is what happened:

No guard, no ranger, no policeman and no courtroom attendant laid a hand on Cochran. Instead, the slayer, walked up to Zimmie Foreman, special prosecutor, and handed over the pistol. He turned and then surrendered to Deputy Sheriff Hershal Surrat.

Bail Only $500.

A formal charge of murder was placed against Cochran and Justice W. Daniels, glancing unsympathetically toward the slumped, untouched figure of the murdered defendant—doubtlessly noting the color of the man, set the bond for Cochran at a mere $500.

Cochran ran his hand coolly into his pocket, brought out the money, posted it and a moment later, walked unescorted from the building.

Spell Case Parallel.

The case, announced District Attorney W. C. McClain, would be referred to the grand jury now in session. White, who was charged **with attacking Mrs. Cochran at her** ranch home, ten miles from Livingston, Tex., in August, 1937, was believed to be in a similar predicament in the case as was Joseph Spell in Connecticut some time ago. In that case, Mrs. Eleanor Strubin, the white woman, charged she was raped and thrown into a reservoir by Spell, butler in her home.

Mrs. Cochran claimed White raped her while her husband and ranchhands were absent from the house. Mrs. Strubin, it was brought out in Connecticut, was later proved to have submitted to acts of intimacy with Spell on her own free will.

Of Her Own Free Will.

The reversal by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeal in White's first trial and the second by the Supreme Court of the United States were based on discrepancies in Mrs. Cochran's story which indicated that she had been intimate on her own accord with the hired man, Bob White.

While feeling ran high in Connecticut, Spell suffered no bodily harm either in that state or in New York where he later went.

White Held in Jail.

White had been held in prison here ever since he was first convicted by the lower court. Feeling against him was intense, aroused and played up as it was by Cochran, his money and influence. Down here the Negro is regarded as the lowest form of animal on earth. If he "stays in his place," he is tolerated. But if he is even thought to have touched a white woman's shoe lace, let alone her person, he is lawful prey.

The murder of White in open court is a challenge to those seeking passage of federal anti-lynching legislation. Down here, the **murder of White proves that even** the law cannot protect the Negro from the vicious, unreasoning mob instinct aflame in the breast of the average white person in the South. It also proves that the will to murder, to take the law away from those sworn to uphold it is not present only in the minds and breasts of the poor cracker, but is shared by the wealthy, the influential members of Dixie's bourgeois.

What They Said.

"The nigger didn't deserve a trial," said one person who attended the hearing.

"Wish I had a had my gun. I'd **a taken a shot at him myself."**

"The sooner we get rid of every damned one of 'em from here, the better it'll gonna be for God-fearing, decent white men and the flower of our womanhood," another interpolated.

"The judge made Cochran's bond too high. He should have released him on his word. His word is good. Don't he own all the land around here?"

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

WASHINGTON STIRRED UP

Bob White Case Once Occupied Attention of U. S. Supreme Court

WASHINGTON, (Special)—Supporters of the anti-lynching bill, spurred by the cold-blooded murder of Bob White in a Texas courtroom Tuesday afternoon by the husband of a white woman he is alleged to have attacked, went into action here Thursday with the avowed determination to secure enactment of the legislation.

While the victim was murdered down right under the noses of judge and jury, the slaying is being described as a lynching of the most fiendish sort. Steps are being taken to support a charge of conspiracy since the slayer, W. S. Cochran, is said to be a close friend of the special prosecutor in the case to whom he surrendered after the killing.

Attorneys here recall vividly the White case when it was heard in the Supreme Court following his conviction and sentence to death in the electric chair. White had been convicted before and his case was reversed by the Texas Court of Appeals.

Plans are being made, The Star-News learned to take the matter up directly with President Roosevelt who will be asked to order a thorough investigation into the whole matter.

Congressman Joseph A. Gavagan, of New York and Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell, of Illinois, both sponsors of anti-lynching bills, were sought for statements, but neither was available. Attorney Charles S. Houston, counsel for the N. A. A. C. P., said that a statement from the association would be forthcoming from the national headquarters in New York.

White was arrested in August 1937 after he was accused by Mrs. Cochran of having attacked her in her home near Livingstone, Texas. Feeling immediately hit fever pitch, and all the Negroes, who form about one-third of the county's population was driven off the street. Some of them were forced to flee their homes.

The sheriff of the county took White into custody and deputized some 100 men, then called in the Texas Range to protect his prisoner. For his action in giving full protection to White he was forced out of his office when the man who signed his surety bond, said to be a relative of Cochran, withdrew his signature.

During the first trial which was held under condition similar to an armed camp there were several Negro witnesses, but because of threats of violence they failed to give satisfactory testimony. They were held under heavy guard throughout the trial.

According to the N. A. A. C. P., whose Houston, Texas branch handled the White case, finger prints and footprints were made at the scene of the crime but neither was presented as evidence at any of the trials. White's conviction was based on an alleged confession which, it was proved, was beaten out of him after four days of merciless grilling and flogging. Reversal of the conviction in Supreme Court was based on the alleged third-degree confession.

Puzzling more than any other phase of the shooting Tuesday was the motive. It was considered somewhat strange that Cochran, who obviously, must have been far more upset four years ago than he could possibly have been this week, was able to sit through two trials during which testimony was offered, suddenly gave vent to his rage even before the jury had been chosen.

Unless some federal point can be raised in the case, the trial of Cochran will be handled by the local court, located in a county said to be controlled by the Cochran family. At the present time no such angle has been disclosed. However, The Star-News was told legal experts are studying the entire case in the hope that some way can be found to put the weight of the federal government behind the prosecution of killer Cochran.

Accused Negro Slain In Court By Husband

CONROE, Tex. (AP) — Bob White, 31-year-old Negro twice convicted of raping a white woman and each time saved from the electric chair by a higher court, was shot dead by the husband of his alleged victim as his third trial opened in a crowded court room Tuesday.

Just as the ninth juror had been accepted, W. S. Cochran jumped to his feet, approached to within one pace of the prisoner, drew a .38 caliber pistol and sent a bullet into the Negro's head. White slumped in his chair, dead as terrorized spectators threw the district court room into bedlam.

Cochran, outwardly the calmest person in the room, stepped up to Zimmie Foreman, a special prosecutor in the case, and handed him the gun. Then he surrendered to Deputy Sheriff Hershal Surrat. A charge of murder was lodged against Cochran, a large land owner, and Justice J. W. McDaniel fixed bond at $500. A few minutes later the bond was posted, and Cochran walked from the building.

White was charged with attacking Mrs. Cochran at her ranch home, 10 miles from Livingston, in August, 1937.

His first conviction was reversed by the Texas court of criminal appeals, his second by the Supreme Court of the United States.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

Four Year Case To Be Heard On Same Charges

SUPREME COURT REVERSAL IN PREVIOUS TRIAL LIKELY TO HAVE IMPORTANT BEARING ON OUTCOME.

CONROE.—(Special to the Negro Labor News).—The four-year-old Bob White case will be tried again Monday morning in the district court at Conroe. JUN 7 - 1941

This sensational case which rocked the nation from coast to coast when the Supreme Court of the United States reversed the decision of the lower court and declared the death penalty assessed White unjustifiable, will be heard on the same indictment charges of rape.

White was snatched from the hands of death by the Supreme Court recently when that high tribunal stated the evidence in the case was insufficient for conviction.

Bob White was represented in his case by Attorney F. S. K. Whittaker of Houston and the Texas branches of the N. A. A. C. P.

The outcome of the trial Monday is being watched with close observation, since it is expected the recent decision of the Supreme Court will weigh heavily in the final decision.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

White Texan Kills Negro in Court--Freed

CONROE, Texas—The United States Supreme Court was violently overruled here Tuesday when W. S. Cochran, white Texan, walked into the District Court and shot to death Bob White.

White was charged with having criminally attacked Mrs. Cochran in August, 1937, and had been up for trial twice before, but Texas justice was such that the Texas Court of Criminal [illegible] twice reversed the local court, and later the U. S. Supreme Court, with Justice Black reading the decision, also reversed the death penalty.

The accused man was having his third trial. The ninth juror had been called. Then Cochran entered, walked straight to White, pulled his gun and fired. White slumped dead.

Cochran, wealthy landowner, next gave his gun to his friend, Zimmie Foreman, special prosecutor, and after a few minutes, walked out to his wife and car and drove home. Justice of the Peace J. W. McDaniel had released him under $500 bail.

And thus ended another chapter in Texas justice.

——A Colored Judge——

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Jury Frees On Killing Charge At Request Of District Attorney

CONROE, Tex.—(AP)—It took a jury only two minutes to free W. S. Cochran, 41-year-old plantation owner, of a murder charge filed after the courtroom slaying of Bob White, a Negro, accused of raping Cochran's wife.

White was fatally shot June 10 at the outset of his third trial on a rape charge. He had been convicted twice previously but both verdicts were reversed by appellate courts.

District Atty. W. C. McClain asked Cochran's acquittal Monday, pleading:

"The time has not come and I trust that it never will come when any man, black or white, can steal into a man's house and ravish his wife and go free."

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Judge Lynch In Texas

LAST week we discussed penal reforms in these columns. We spoke of a "double standard of justice," and deplored the tendency on the part of juries to consider lightly crimes committed by members of the colored race against persons of color. We deplored this as a serious defect in the administration of our criminal courts.

We come back to the subject this week to call attention to an incident in a Texas court, which involves the integrity of the judiciary, placing the bench in this particular case in a far more untenable light than any recent action on the part of a jury.

When a Negro defendant was being tried the third time for an alleged crime that usually brings a first degree conviction, the husband of the plaintiff stepped up, drew a gun from his pocket, and shot the accused dead in his seat.

The judge sitting on the bench placed the killer in a $500 bond, under which he was quickly released.

Ordinarily a judge on any bench would commit any man to jail in contempt of court for shooting a man to death in his presence and in his court under any provocation whatsoever.

The action of this Texas judge needs no explanation. It is a part of the system of the administration of justice which flagrantly discriminates against colored Americans.

Two higher courts had reversed previous convictions of the victim of this Texas court assassin's bullet. Had not there been serious doubts of his guilt, or obvious miscarriages of justice in the lower courts in connection with this man's previous two convictions the Texas supreme court would not have reversed the first conviction and the United States supreme court would not have reversed the second conviction.

It appears that a travesty against justice by the courts of Texas was committed because this particular court, and this particular judge, was impatient with a man's efforts, exerted under his full constitutional rights to establish his innocence before the court.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

"Lynching" O. K. in Texas

Last Tuesday afternoon a white man walked into a crowded courtroom in Conroe, Texas and pumped bullets from a revolver into the body of a Negro defandant, killing him instantly.

The slayer, W. C. Cochran, whose wife is alleged to have been criminally assaulted by the victim, was released almost immediately in $500 bail and Monday of this week after a hearing that lasted a brief three hours, a jury deliberated just two minutes before returning a verdict of not guilty.

Thus the cold-blooded slaying of Robert White has been brought to a close, and the case that was reversed twice by upper courts, once by the United States Supreme Court, has been adjudicated by a lone Texas citizen with the aid of his peers.

Even the machinery of an anti-lynching law might have found it difficult to punish Cochran for his deed, because under the interpretation of the law, a single person cannot commit a lynching, or constitute a mob—at least three people must participate. However, if it were possible for the long arm of Uncle Sam to take over in the Cochran case under a federal law against mobs, it might be possible to prove conspiracy involving more than two people.

The verdict, in all probability, reflects the opinion of the community; therefore the judge, jury nor prosecutor need have any fear of any attack from the public for such gross miscarriage of justice.

While some action could be taken to punish Cochran under a federal law, another effective weapon that might have been used against him is the force of a Negro vote. Prosecutor, judge, sheriff, mayor and governor would be on the spot before an enraged electorate. Fear of reprisal at the polls would have prevented such utter disregard for law and order against a member of a group that comprises so large a part of the population.

But the Negro in Texas is helpless. He hasn't the vote and therefore, has no rights white Texans feel bound to respect, not even his right to live and have a fair trial in the courts of law.

Robert White is dead; the connivers who effected his death will have their reckoning with their own consciences throughout the rest of their lives. But Robert White might not have died in vain. His slaying may not only serve to emphasize the need for passage of an anti-lynching bill, but may well spur the campaign to abolish the vicious poll tax system. It appears that if the Negro is ever to help fight his way from under the oppressive, brutal and inhuman rule of the South, he must be given the right to vote. Indeed, there seems no other way!

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

Bob White's Murder

Bob White, who was charged with rape of a white woman and whose case had been reversed first by the State Supreme Court and again by the United States Supreme Court, was murdered June 10 in the courtroom, Conroe, Texas, by the husband of the woman. His slayer was acquitted last Monday in a trial by jury in less than 10 minutes. The procedure, it is said, was only a formality of a citizens' legal right of a trial by jury. As Wendell L. Willkie put it, "the whole thing is OUTRAGEOUS."

We do not agree with that group of people who are attempting to use the incident to excite Negroes against the United States as a whole. It is to be remembered that this case was argued before the United States Supreme Court, the last appeal for justice, and a reversal with a reprimand was handed down, the opinion written by Justice Hugo Black, whose nativity is in the Mid-South.

Before Negroes condemn the whole of the white race for this occurrence, it should be remembered that it was a white man defending Bob White at the time of the trial. This attorney took exception to the witnesses' testimony that Negroes were systematically excluded from the jury in Montgomery County. Note of this exception alone demonstrated that this white lawyer set the foundation to take the case back to the Supreme Court.

Negroes should not be so ready to include in their condemnation all members of the white race for what one of a group does. There are numerous whites in this state who condemn the slaying of Bob White as much as Negroes. If we as a race do not lend encouragement to those white people who go out of the way to help us with our problems, conditions will be far worse than they are.

That class of people going around telling Negroes that we would be better off under Hitler should be told that two years ago a poor Jew killed a German, for which he was punished by Hitler and $400,000,000 was assessed against the whole Jewish race for the payment of the life of one German.

At no time has any race in America been punished for what one of its members did in some other section. We should not allow our personal feeling and emotions to run away with our better judgment.

In this time of International strife, as a race we should be steady though danger threatens, clouds grow darker and the storms of race hatred and injustice draw closer. Such situations will not continue forever. "Behind every cloud there IS a silver lining."

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

'One Man Lynch Mob' Is Tried and Released

CONROE, Tex.—Two minutes after the case was delivered to them members of a jury here freed W. S. Cochrane, 41, wealthy white plantation owner, of a murder charge in connection with the courtroom slaying of Robert White, 31, accused of raping Cochrane's wife. The trial itself lasted just three hours, with the prosecution openly favoring acquittal.

District Attorney W. C. McClain, a warm friend of Cochrane, in his address to the jury, asked release of the planter, declaring:

"The time has not come and I trust it never will come when any man, black or white, can steal into a man's house and ravish his wife and go free."

Cochrane's victim, whose previous conviction on the rape charge had been reversed both by the Texas Court of Appeals and the U. S. Supreme Court, was blasted into eternity before the entire courtroom, during the selection of a jury for his new trial.

The white planter rushed into the courtroom brandishing his gun openly, proceeded unhindered to the Negro's seat, pumped a bullet into his head, then surrendered his weapon and himself to officers.

White had been a hired man on Cochrane's plantation, was accused by Mrs. Cochrane of committing the assault while her husband was away. Discrepancies in her testimony, indicating the possibility that she and White had enjoyed previous intimacies with her consent, however, caused reversals of his original conviction by the high-

Negro Suspect, 70, Stabbed to Death In Lufkin Court

Houston Texas Post
NOV 25 1941

LUFKIN, Nov. 24.—(AP)—Mott Flounory, 70, a negro, was led into a crowded courtroom Monday to be tried for the alleged ax slaying of young Mrs. Roy Morehouse last August. Ten minutes later he was stabbed to death.

The youthful husband of the dead woman wielded a pocket knife before several hundred horrified spectators.

Flounory was among the first suspects to be questioned in connection with Mrs. Morehouse's death. He was taken to Beaumont by rangers and local officers and later signed a statement in which he said criminal assault was his motive.

NOV 25 1941

Soon after District Judge J. W. Chandler Jr. opened the afternoon session of court, Morehouse walked to the negro's chair, reached over his right shoulder and plunged the knife into his right chest.

Flounory slumped out of the chair and bedlam broke out in the courtroom. Forty minutes later Morehouse was free on $5000 bond, signed by 44 Angelina county citizens. He was charged with murder by Ranger R. D. Holliday.

Southern News
Almanac
Birmingham, Ala.

Texas Planter Freed On Charge Of Killing Negro; "Legal Lynching" Charged

A Conroe, Texas, jury took two minutes last week to free W. S. Cochran, plantation boss who killed a Negro man, Robert White, in cold blood on June tenth. District Attorney W. C. McClain, supposedly prosecuting for the state on behalf of the people, asked for Cochran's acquittal. White had been charged with "rape" and convicted, but the conviction was reversed twice by higher courts.

White was on trial a third time for his life, when Cochran walked into the crowded court-room with gun in hand and shot the Negro farm-hand dead. He then gave himself up to the prosecutor, a personal friend of his, and was released on $500.00 bond, supplied by an oil-operator friend.

In a statement issued jointly by Edward Strong, for the SNYC, and Sidney Rittenberg, for the League of Young Southerners, it was charged that: "This latest lynching is part of the rising wave of brutality against the people which the Jefferson County Committee Against Police Brutality is fighting in Birmingham. Since the people have forced the anti-lynching bill through the House, and the Roosevelt Administration has bottled it up in the Senate, there has been increasing tendency to use "legal" means for lynchings, rather than the old methods. All the requirements for a legal lynching seem to be here—hand-picked jury, friendly prosecutor, etc.

"Coming directly from a plantation-owner," the statement continued, "this case makes clear the source of all such brutality, so that the people can see the hand of the money-kings behind the lynch-mob and police terror. Now, when the people are faced with an all-out campaign to silence their opposition to the rising cost of living which the war is bringing on, every such terroristic act must be oppressed. The labor and people's organizations of progressive America will not allow this case to pass unnoticed."

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Lynching Spirit Not Confined to the Worst Elements

A Texas judge saw a colored defendant murdered in his own court recently; then placed the killer under $500 bail.

Emboldened by this travesty on justice, the State prosecutor, supposedly pleading for the State, urged the jury to return a verdict of not guilty, and twelve "good men and true" (?) obliged in just two minutes.

We make no defense of the dead man or the alleged crime he committed except to say that the highest court of the land (U.S. Supreme Court) had already passed on the case and decided that a fair trial had not been had.

The South's defense of lynchings has been that its mobs were made up of irresponsible hoodlums that can be found in every community.

It cannot say that in this case, for here the spirit of lawless violence behind every lynching is shown to possess the jury, the prosecutor and the bench of justice itself.

The South, which so readily gives an excuse for its mobs, cannot so glibly explain away this contempt of the court itself, for the Supreme Court and orderly processes.

No uglier practice has ever been held up by Texas, or any other Southern State for the world to see. It confirms our worst fears that the mob spirit is not confined to Dixie's worst elements.

committed in open court; his Honor the judge presiding, permitted the motion to prevail and the prisoner marched out of court, a free man amidst the plaudits and congratulations of his friends a second time. He was acclaimed a hero and a great man in the Lone Star State because he killed a Negro. Could anything more savage than this Conroe crime happen in Germany, Russia or anywhere else in civilization except in America, the arsenal of democracy? Seven billion dollars are being spent to protect the lives and property of the Englishmen and the Chinaman in foreign lands; but the President is without power to protect the life and property of American citizens in his homeland because they are black. God's vengeance is laid up in storo to be meted out to the American white man, and He will repay. The prosecuting attorney made this statement to the jury when the husband was arraigned for the murder of the prisoner at the bar in open court. We quote: "The time has not come and I trust that it will never come when any man, black or white; can steal into a man's house and ravish his wife and go free." We all agree with the sentiment expressed in the above statement by the prosecuting officer, but none of us agree with him vacating his duty, and violating his oath of office and trampling law and order under his feet instead of enforcing it.

haps will be doing it for many years to come. In Texas among a certain class of whites the killer is looked upon as a hero who is willing to do anything under the sun to protect the virtue of white women. But in the eves of many whites in Texas as well as many other parts of the country the killer perhaps has a lower I. Q. than that of the man whom he killed. As to whether the Negro was guilty of rape has not been determined and never will because he is dead and did not have a chance at a fair trial. The only argument now is that of the accuser which would not hold up in a court of law against a dead man. The Texas killer should be charged with first degree murder and contempt of court. The time has come when in America this barbarian and others of this type must be made to know that civilized society will not tolerate the interference with the administration of justice. If Texas allows the brutal murder to go unchallenged then Texas no longer needs modern-day laws but perhaps can survive best under the jungle law.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

Is The Conroe, Texas Brand Of Democracy The Democracy Our President Wants The Negro To Fight To Perpetuate?

The story came from Conroe, Texas, that the husband of a white woman, walked boldly into the courthouse, and in court, in the presence of his Honor, the sheriff and his staff of officers, and shoots to death, a Negro charged with raping his wife. The accused had been twice tried and convicted by a jury of his superiors; and sentenced to death; but each conviction the Appelate Court had reversed the verdict of the lower court; and ordered a new trial. But in the face of the court, the husband ended it all by murdering the prisoner at bar at open court, while a jury was being drawn for the third trial. We would like to know if this is a sample of the democracy, our President wants America to become the arsenal of, and American Negroes to risk their lives to perpetuate. Verily not.

At the scene of the murder in open court, the husband received the congratulations of the mob; it shook his hand for the heroic deed the murderer committed. No voice was heard for law and order; after being acclaimed a hero, the husband turned his gun over to the sheriff of the county, who loosed him on a small bond to kill as many Negroes as he chose to in Conroe, Texas. Texas is the home state of Jesse Jones, a member of the President's cabinet; the Speaker of the House of Representative; the chairman of the Committee on Judiciary, agriculture and the Dies investigating committee.

The closing chapter of this barbarity appears on the screen; the prosecuting attorney of the state being the star. The jury is drawn to try the husband for the murder of the Negro in open court; the prosecuting officer abandons the state as its prosecuting officer; violates his solemn oath to prosecute crime, and moves that the jury without hearing any evidence, acquit the husband of the crime of murder,

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

TEXAS JUSTICE

LAST WEEK down in Texas in the little court room at Conroe, a judge and twelve jurists were witnesses to a cold-blooded murder. A white man murdered a Negro The court room was crowded with spectators who had assembled for the purpose of hearing the case on its merits but instead they were witnesses to a murder. The Negro was charged with the usual crime of rape and was supposed to be on trial for the third time. The murderer who walked calmly into the court room with his gun in his hand while the guards and police officers looked on was a wealthy Texas land owner. The murderer was permitted to go free after a motion was made by the prosecuting attorney who was elected by the people to uphold the law in that county.

As far as Texas is concerned the case is closed issue and perhaps nothing will ever be done to punish the killer. But we feel that it is in order to register a protest against such type of justice meted out to defenseless Negroes who have been apprehended by the law and who are under the custody of the law. Of course it is no new thing in the Southland for white men to take the law into their own hands, especially where Negroes are concerned. They have been doing it for years and per-

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Lynch Law—An Ally of Hitler

Americans, anxious to put the finishing touches to Hitlerism, will be deeply outraged at the news from Lufkin, Texas, that a 70-year-old Negro man was the victim of a one-man lynching right in open court.

Always, a hideous crime against the Negro people and democratic rights, such examples of outright fascist lynch violence are a serious detriment to unity behind the defense program.

The facts of the case reveal a shocking travesty upon justice. Mott Flournoy, the aged victim, was facing trial on the Ku Klux charge of "assault and murder." The deceased woman's husband walked unhampered into court and stabbed Flournoy to death, and, within a few minutes, was out on bail, boasting that "Now, I can sleep."

Instead of apprehending the real murderer of the woman, the authorities made a scapegoat of Flournoy on the basis of a signed "confession." Several times during the past year, the Supreme Court has outlawed these so-called "confessions," which are special weapons against Negro defendants. The continuous use of this Gestapo tactic requires federal investigation not only of the lynching, but also of the public officials where they take place. Failure to do so only plays into the hands of the hypocritical appeasers.

NOV 27 1941

Passage of the anti-lynching bill and the strictest enforcement of the Negro's constitutional rights are now urgent for national unity and the defense of the country. Lynchers should receive the limit of the law as enemies of the national effort against Hitler and Hitlerism.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

NEGRO, ACCUSED KILLER OF BRIDE, IS SLAIN IN COURT

NOV 25 1941

Lufkin, Tex., Nov. 24 (AP).—Mott Flournoy, 70 year old Negro, was stabbed fatally today after he was brought into district court to be tried on a charge of murdering Mrs. Roy Morehouse.

NOV 25 1941

The husband of the white woman ordered to officers, and Sheriff H. C. Billingsley said charges would be filed against him.

The courtroom was thrown into an uproar by the killing, and Negro spectators fled. There was no other disorder. Mrs. Morehouse, pretty bride of a few weeks, was found slain in her farm home. Flournory was arrested about a week later.

by Ranger R. D. Holliday of the Texas Rangers Division.

Flounory was among the first suspects to be questioned in connection with Mrs. Morehouse's murder last August. Following local questioning, he was taken to Beaumont, where he allegedly signed a statement in which he outlined criminal assault as the motive of the crime.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

MOTT FLOUNEY MURDERED IN CROWDED COURT

NOV 29 1941

LUFKIN, Texas—(Special)—The gruesome June 10th courthouse murder of Bob White was reenacted here Monday with two other principals playing the leading roles.

Mott Flounory, 70, accused of slaying Mrs. Roy Morehouse, white, last August, was stabbed to death here in a crowded courthouse by the deceased woman's husband, Roy Morehouse as the judge, sheriffs and other officers of the county looked on.

Flounory had been led into the courtroom only 10 minutes prior to his fatal stabbing and as he sat in his chair prepared to go through with the trial, Morehouse walked up behind him and stabbed him in the right chest.

As the murdered man slumped over in his chair bedlam broke lose in the court room.

NOV 29 1941

Morehouse used a small pocket knife for a weapon as he caught the unsuspecting Flounory from behind. No attempt to stop him was made as he walked towards the murdered man's chair.

NOV 29 1941

It took only 40 minutes for 44 Angelina country citizens to put their signatures on the $5000 bond which set the murderer free.

He has been charged with murder

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

KILLS RACE MAN IN TEXAS COURTROOM

DEC 6 1941

LUFKIN, Tex., Dec. 4—(ANP)—The stabbing to death of Mott Flourney, 70-year-old defendant on trial for his life here last Monday, brought Texas courtroom slayings up to a total of two during the period of less than six months. Flournoy was stabbed by Roy Morehouse, white, husband of the woman Flournoy was charged with slaying.

Before the crowded courtroom audience, in the presence of officers and court attaches, Morehouse moved near where the aged defendant sat, reached over his right shoulder and plunged a pocket knife blade deep into his right chest. Death was instantaneous.

Bedlam broke out in the courtroom and Negro spectators fled from the court in fear.

Within 40 minutes after the killing, Morehouse was freed on $5,000 bond signed by 44 Angelina county and Lufkin white people. Many bystanders rushed up to congratulate Morehouse on his deed.

DEC 6 1941

Reminiscent of the Bob White slaying in Conroe, Tex., on June 10 this year is the Flournoy slaying. White, on trial for his life, was shot and killed in the courtroom by W. S. Cochran, Texas landowner. A white jury tried Cochran and in two minutes freed him of all charges.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

The Great State of Texas

OCT 6 - 1941

We wonder how much longer the federal government is going to continue hiding behind the "State's rights" provision and permit the United States Constitution to be violated and trampled upon by rebels of the South, where the Bill of Rights is nothing more than a scrap of paper so far as one-tenth of our population is concerned.

"Due process of law" and "trial by jury" are fundamental in the framework of the basic laws of this country, yet within five months two Texas white citizens have walked into courtrooms and murdered two colored defendants in the presence of judge and jury and escaped without punishment.

OCT 6 - 1941

There must be a law somewhere in our great democracy to punish perpetrators of such deeds as those committed in the Texas courtrooms. Certainly, it was never intended that one citizen should be permitted to kill another except in self-defense and escape his just punishment.

In order that the strong arm of the U. S. government could be used to help capture the kidnapers of the Lingbergh baby, a new federal law was passed. There ought to be a federal law not only permitting, but making it mandatory for Uncle Sam to step in when tyranny grips a state, and local authorities fail to act. Certainly, there is tyranny in Texas.

The National Bar Association should study such legislation.

37 o-1941 TEXAS 6790

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

COURTROOM SLAYER ACQUITTED

Jury Decision In Two Minutes

CONROE, Texas—(SNS)—W. S. Cochran, 41-year-old plantation owner who shot and killed a colored man, Bob White, in an open court room June 16, had been acquitted of the murder charge Tuesday.

JUN 18 1941

The jury of 2 white men needed only two minutes to free the courtroom slayer.

White was shot and killed as he was about to be tried the third time on a charge of criminally attacking Cochran's wife. He had been convicted twice previously but both verdicts were reversed by appellate courts.

District Attorney W. C. McClain urged the jury to acquit the white man, declaring that:

"The time has not come and I trust it never will come when any man, black or white, can steal into a man's house and ravish his wife and go free."

It is expected that the jury's decision will cause much discussion at the national convention of the NAACP which meets in Houston June 24.

JUN 18 1941

The NAACP was interested in the case and its lawyers had represented White since 1937.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

ANOTHER WAY OF LYNCHING



JUN 4 1941

This picture symbolizes the influences of democracy upon the South. This is the mob in action. From Texas comes a story of the smallest component of the mob, the individual, taking the law in his own hands and staging a one man lynching spree in open court. Notwithstanding the sincerely conciliatory affect of anti-lynching legislation by Congress, the evil lies deeply embedded in the hearts and souls of persons who haven't yet learned the first principle of democracy, tolerance. Meanwhile, the harvest of "strange fruit" continues to mount.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

White Woman's Husband Shoots Prisoner

CONROE, TEX. (Special)—A wealthy white Texan took the law into his own hands here Tuesday afternoon and thus single-handedly "reversed a decision of the United States Supreme Court" when he walked into district court and shot to death a Negro defendant who was on trial charged with rape.

Walter White, executive secretary of the N. A. A. C. P. in a statement on the Bob White murder in Texas said: "Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini and Hirohito must be chortling with glee at the United States today because of the cold-blooded contempt for its laws manifested yesterday by W. S. Cochran, wealthy Texas landowner in the shooting in the crowded courtroom at Conroe, Texas Bob White, on trial for the third time for an alleged attack on Mrs. Cochran.

The ninth juror had just been selected for the third trial of Robert White, 31 years old, whose death sentence had been reversed once by the Texas Court of Appeals and once by the United States Supreme Court when W. S. Cochran, whose wife White is alleged to have attacked, brushed into the crowded court room and shot the prisoner down.

A bullet in his head, and his clothes spattered with blood, White slumped to the floor and was dead when a police ambulance arrived.

All was calm in the courtroom as counsel questioned prospective jurors when suddenly, Cochran strode into the building with a gun in hand. White's lawyer, J. P. Rodgers, who was sitting near his client said he saw the gun in Cochran's hand but thought the weapon was being brought to the court for evidence.

After shooting White, Cochran, without uttering a word, surrendered to Zimmie Forman, an old friend who was special prosecutor in the case, and handed over the gun. The slayer then faced Deputy Sheriff Russell Surrat and raised his hands into the air.

Following the shooting there was a lull, then pandemonium broke loose as the spectators stampeded toward the small single door.

Sheriff Grover Mostyn quickly joined Surrat and placed Cochran under arrest and took him before Justice of the Peace J. W. McDaniel, where he was booked on a charge of murder. J. L. Pitts, wealthy Conroe oil man, and friend of Cochran, hurried to the justice's office, shook Cochran's hand and signed a $500 bond effecting the slayer's release.

Freed, Cochran walked out the building, got into his car where his wife was waiting for him and drove off toward his home.

Commenting the action that is to be taken in the case, Walter White, executive secretary of the N. A. A. C. P. made the following statement to the Star-News Wednesday morning:

The only action whichd woul lessen the blemish on the name of Texas and the execution of justice would be the uncompromising prosecution of Cochran. We predict that this will not take place.

If this is the type "legal" machinery which Senator Tom Connally of Texas feels should function instead of anti-lynching legislation, then Congressman Martin Dies should devote some of the time of his committee to an investigation of this case, which is no less harmful to American Democratic Institutions that so-called "subversive activities."

We urge that both State and Federal laaw enforcement agencies look into every aspect of this case to determine why and how such a crime against—not an individual by against the state of Texas—could have been so brazenly committed by Cochran and to reestablish the American creed of "Equal justice under the law" as guaranteed by our Constitution to every citizen.

Bob White has not been duly convicted of any crime and he has been executed. W. S. Cochran who is without doubt guilty of premeditated and cold - blooded murder in the first degree, walks the street a relatively free man."

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
June 12, 1941

"Everything Went Black"

Mr. W. S. Cochran is the Texas gentleman who, while the jury was being selected for the third trial of a Negro charged with "a statutory offense" involving Mrs. Cochran, walked over to the prisoner, pulled out a pistol and shot him dead.

Mr. Cochran is the Texas gentleman who then, "outwardly the calmest person in the [court] room," handed his pistol to the special prosecutor and surrendered himself to a deputy sheriff.

And Mr. Cochran is the Texas gentleman, also "a large landowner," who was released after these proceedings on a bond of $500. We recall bonds as high as $100,000 for men charged with murder. But a different code, it appears, applies to Texas gentlemen and "statutory" offenses.

What next? We don't know. But we can guess. We can guess that when (and if) Mr. Cochran comes to trial for killing a man in a court room, another jury is going to learn that as he was sitting there innocently, with never a thought of the pistol in his pocket, "everything went black;" and that Mr. Cochran does not remember anything else until after the $500 bond was arranged.

A great many things did go black in that Texas court room. The law's protection of a prisoner went black. Respect for the court went black—and not only the trial court which was about to hear the case of the Negro prisoner but also the Texas Court of Criminals Appeals and the Supreme Court of the United States, which had reversed earlier convictions of the Negro prisoner. Due process of law went black. Belief in the orderly processes of government went black. A not inconsiderable aspect of civilization went black.

It will be interesting to see whether a Texas jury considers these things that went black as of any real importance in comparison with the feudal conception of honor that impels a Texas gentleman to put private vengeance above them all.

New Masses
New York, N. Y.

Bitter Fruit

THERE are two kinds of lynching; outright murder by night riders and "legal" frameups with the death sentence given out in the courtroom. Recently the two were combined. W. S. Cochran, Texas landlord, strode into the courtroom at Conroe and shot to death Robert White, a young Negro who was being tried on charges of "raping" Cochran's wife. The accused had been tried twice before and "found guilty" but the frameup was so obvious that the verdicts were reversed by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and the US Supreme Court. Cochran couldn't wait for a third verdict and possible reversal—he used the Hitler tactic most popular with Southern rulers. Then, after "giving himself up" to a prosecutor who shook his hand, he laid down $500 for bail and went home. And later this man who murdered in cold blood before a court full of witnesses was "tried," congratulated for his "daring" by the prosecuting attorney—and freed!

This is the sort of thing which the non-labor press regards as a "good story" but not for editorial comment. Nor did the editors recall anything about lynching when they editorialized, a few days later, on Roosevelt's appointment of Senator James Byrnes of South Carolina to the Supreme Court. Yet the President's "dear Jim" is one of the Senate's most prominent opponents of the Anti-Lynching Bill. He is also one of its outstanding "White Supremacy" ranters, who has attacked the Negro press and fought federal appropriations that carried any benefits to Negroes. To elevate him to the nation's highest court is an action which says far more about the administration's "defense" policy toward Negroes than all of the President's statement politely asking war industrialists not to refuse jobs to Negroes. However, the statement does say some interesting things. It is an admission that Negroes *have* been barred from "defense" employment these many months—as progressives have pointed out all along. And the statement itself, weak as it is, shows that the protest against this discrimination has been strong enough to force the President at least to a verbal concession.

The truly positive, realistic statement on this subject comes from the National Negro Congress, supporting the July First Job March on Washington. It demands not only equal employment opportunities for Negroes but abolition of Jim Crow and the poll tax; passage of the Anti-Lynching Bill; the broadest unity of Negro and white people in the fight for Negro freedom; and staying out of the war in Europe.

6670

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Lawrenceville Mob Attacks, Beats Soldier

Parents of Victim Not Allowed To See Him In Jail

LAWRENCEVILLE, VA.—The victim of a brutal beating on July 4th at the hands of a mob composed of white Lawrenceville residents, Buddy Joyner, a soldier stationed at Camp Lee near Petersburg, Va. is in a serious condition at the home of his parents here.

Joyner was released on Monday, July 7 on $150 bail furnished by Oris P. Jones, local mortician, after he had been held incommunicado in the Lawrenceville jail since Friday, July 4, the day of the alleged beating.

During this time his parents were not allowed to see him, it was stated.

A hearing in the case was scheduled for Wednesday night of this week.

The attack on Joyner, who was on leave to visit his parents, is said to have followed an incident at a local filling station in which a white woman ran her automobile dangerously close to the young soldier. Eyewitnesses said that the woman asked Joyner why he did not get out of the way and he replied "Why don't you blow your horn?"

HUSBAND TOLD

Taking exception to his reply the woman is then said to have told her husband who sought out Joyner for an explanation. The latter apologized for any seeming impertinence, according to the best available information, and the matter was apparently settled.

Local agitators, however continued to stir up matters until law enforcement officers were called in. Found at Millers one-stop service, a colored business establishment here, by the town sergeant and a sizeable crowd of white men, Joyner quietly submitted to arrest, it was stated.

Members of the mob however, continued to make threats against him and followed these up by actually assaulting him. Eyewitnesses said blackjacks, iron tire tools, tire hammers and other weapons were used in the attack upon the soldier.

TAKEN TO JAIL

Battered, bruised and bleeding profusely, Joyner was hauled off to the local jail where he was treated by a local white physician and remained until the following Monday. Local officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People are investigating the case. Dr. F. A. Sealey is president of the local NAACP chapter.

The charges were placed against Albritton last week after Mrs. Evelyn Adams, white 26-year-old mother of three children, had been reported attacked in her home on the Holland Road. The accused man was arrested late Thursday afternoon while riding a bicycle on the Little Neck Road.

The preliminary hearing on Wednesday night at seven o'clock was scheduled to be conducted by Trial Justice E. V. Gresham at Princess Anne Courthouse. Commonwealth's Attorney Paul Ackiss was expected to be present for the hearing.

NO MOVE FOR CHANGE OF VENUE

No moves for a change of venue have been made in Albritton's behalf, the Journal and Guide was told Tuesday by Chief of Police W. S. White of Princess Anne County, who handled the preliminary investigation. Asked if there had been any requests for removal of the prisoner to the Norfolk City jail or for special guards at the Princess Anne jail where he is confined, as a precautionary measure, Chief White replied: "None. It's not that kind of case at all."

As far as could be learned, Albritton has not employed counsel up to Tuesday evening. The case will probably be presented to the next session of the Princess Anne County grand jury.

According to Chief White, Mrs. Adams reported that the attack occurred about 12:15 p.m. on Thursday while she was attending to her six-months old child. She told investigating officers that she was seized from behind, and when she screamed her assailant began choking her. According to her story, her other two children, aged two and four years, screamed and her assailant was frightened away.

She described the man as wearing overalls, a dark shirt and cap and with a bump on his lip. She was not able to identify Albritton positively as her assailant, however, when he was brought before her following his arrest on the Little Neck Road.

"LOOKED LIKE" ASSAILANT

She told investigating officers that Albritton "looked like" the guilty party but that she did not see his face except at a distance of 150 feet. The accused man, who emphatically denied all the charges,, was then taken to the Princess Anne County jail.

Chief White said he learned that a 14-year-old boy and Mrs. Adams had seen a man on a bicycle on the Holland Road a short while before the assault. Covering the cornfield thoroughly Chief White reported that he found a series of foot-prints leading to bicycle tire prints and a place where the saddle of a bicycle had rested on the ground.

Taking Albritton's shoes he fitted them into the 25 or 30 foot-prints and said they fitted perfectly in every instance. The tires of Albritton's bicycle the chief of police declared matched perfectly the treads in the cornfields.

which lasted 45 minutes and was held without a jury—behind closed doors.

The alleged victim of the assault could not identify the boy as her assailant and remembered nothing. The police had a document which was an alleged "confession" extorted from the boy by a combination of torture and plying him with a drink that "made his dizzy."

Though the date of execution has not yet been set, the I. L. D. urged utmost speed in sending communications to Gov. James H. Price Richmond, Va. for immediate action on his part in saving the boy's life.

New York Age
New York, N. Y

Nationwide Support Of Fight For Boy's Life Urged By ILD

Denouncing the Virginia Supreme Court's decision confirming the death sentence of a 16-year-old Negro boy, Joseph Mickens, on a flimsy trumped up "rape" charge, as a barbarous travesty on justice, the week called for nation-wide support of campaign, urging Gov. James H. Price to save the child's life.

The decision, handed down on October 16, upheld a death sentence meted out last December in Waynesboro, at the end of a trial

Negro Is Slain After Killing Augusta Deputy; 2 Wounded

(Continued from First Page)

and the warrant later was dropped.

Yesterday's trouble began when Johnson created a disturbance in the home of Harry Smith, only a few yards from his own shack. The Smiths, according to Lyle Flint, a nephew who had been visiting in the home for the past five days, sent their home from Johnson's father. The younger Johnson lives by himself about 100 yards from the Smiths and used water from the pump in the Smiths' backyard. According to Flint, Johnson came down to the Smith home yesterday morning and told Mrs. Smith, cursing, that he wanted her to stop using the water. Flint said Johnson knocked Mrs. Smith down and then went on out, got his water and walked back to his own place.

"I was busy with a jar of peaches," said Flint. "I was scared, but I was going to let him have those peaches beside the head if he started after me." The Smiths came into Staunton and reported the incident to the elder Johnson, who swore out a warrant.

Many Volunteer for Posse

Following the shooting of the sheriff and his deputy, county and city police headquarters were deluged with calls from persons anxious to join in the posse. Reports from various sections of this area that Johnson had been seen sent police cars rushing across the highways, their sirens screaming. Hundreds of persons went to the scene of the shooting, completely blocking the lane, while hundreds of others gathered in front of the jail here hoping to see the Negro brought in. Chief Webb was leading a score or more searching through the woods when he first spotted Johnson.

"I saw him behind a tree about 50 feet in front of me," the chief said at the hospital last night. "He fired his shotgun and struck me before I could shoot. I shot at him twice, and I think one of the shots hit him."

By this time the other policemen had closed in and a number of shots were fired into Johnson's body. Chief Webb was struck twice, once in the upper right arm and again in the lower right arm. His condition was not serious.

The body lay in the woods for more than an hour, and hundreds of persons tramped through the bushes to see it

Police Use Tear Gas

Before the search through the woods began, a posse led by State Police Lieutenant Robert A. Lynn went to the Johnson shack and threw tear gas in, but the Negro already had fled. At 7 o'clock last night, persons who went into the tiny two-room building came out with eyes smarting from the gas.

When Johnson was killed he had with him a .38-calibre pistol, a .22-calibre rifle and a 12-gauge shotgun, as well as quantities of shells for each, according to Lynn. He had $210 in his pockets, evidently money he had earned at the rock quarry where he worked. Just who fired the shot which brought Johnson down was not known. Policeman Lynn said that when they saw Johnson, "everybody started shooting."

The Johnson home where Armstrong was killed is surrounded on one side by an open clover field, in the rear by a thickly tangled acreage of pine forest and on the other side by an orchard.

2 Wounded Over Serving Lunacy Writ

AUG 24 1941

Posse Riddles Cornered Man

By Overton Jones

Times-Dispatch Staff Writer

STAUNTON—A crazed Negro who had shot and killed Frank L. Armstrong, Augusta County deputy sheriff, and wounded two other officers was brought down by a volley of pistol and rifle shots near here late yesterday to end a four-hour manhunt which threw the Staunton-Waynesboro area into an uproar.

Attempting to the very end to spread death among his pursuers, 36-year-old Charles Johnson shot and wounded the Staunton police chief, John M. Webb, only a few seconds before State and Staunton policemen riddled the Negro's body with bullets. Johnson was captured about 500 yards from his small house on Sangers Lane, about three miles east of here, where shortly before noon yesterday he killed Armstrong and wounded Sheriff G. M. Gilkeson.

The two county officers had gone to the Johnson home to serve a lunacy warrant sworn out by the man's father, Frank Johnson, an employee of the C. & O. Railroad here.

500 Citizens Join in Search

With Armstrong lying dead about 35 yards from the Johnson shack, Sheriff Gilkeson made his way up the lane about a mile where he spread the alarm which started one of the biggest manhunts this section of Virginia ever has experienced. Armed with every conceivable weapon, 500 citizens of the Staunton-Waynesboro area joined State, City and county police in a search through the woods surrounding the Johnson home.

A graphic story of the first shooting was told here last night by Sheriff Gilkeson in King's Daughters Hospital, where he shares a room with Chief Webb. Sheriff Gilkeson said he and Armstrong went fully armed because they had heard Johnson was a dangerous character.

"We stopped the car about 35 yards from his house, got out and started walking towards the house" the sheriff said. "We had just gotten in front of the car when Johnson came to the front door and yelled out, 'What the hell you coming up here like this for?' I [illegible] Johnson started shooting."

Gilkeson said he fired three shots at him and at the same time warned Armstrong to take cover.

Shot In the Head

"He tried to get behind the car, since that was the only cover available, but before he could make it, a shot from the .38 calibre pistol struck him in the head and he fell to the ground. The Negro hit me in the leg. I crawled around in the orchard beside the house and then came back to the car yelling to Armstrong. He didn't answer and I saw he was dead. The Negro was still in the house and he yelled to me, 'You better watch out or I'll drop you, too,'" related the sheriff.

"I told him to hold everything, as that was the only thing I could think of to say. As I started down the road he shot me in the back, just below the shoulder blade."

Suffering from his two wounds, Sheriff Gilkeson made his way down Sanger's Lane a short distance where he saw a little boy. He told the youth to run for help. The sheriff continued on down the road until he saw Joe Ellis, farmer, running a tractor in a field. Ellis brought the wounded man to Staunton, where the alarm spread by the child already had been received.

Resting Comfortably

The sheriff, who for three years was president of the Virginia State Sheriffs' Association, was resting comfortably at the hospital last night. He expressed a keen desire to go back to that house and see where my shots hit." Once before, about two years ago, the sheriff said he had gone to the Johnson home to serve a warrant on him. Johnson was not there at the time

[redacted]

[redacted] February 6, 2010; Fort Deposit, Lowndes County, Alabama; Lowndes County Deputy, Regina Jackson. Alexander was [redacted] death by a mob of more [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] [redacted] found in the subpoena of the fifty papers of Alabama [redacted] any aspect of this killing. All information which has been obtained on this case has been secured through private investigation.

37a-1942

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Lynching

CALIFORNIA

Daily World
Atlanta. Ga.

Coast Judge Denounces Mob Threats In Kidnaping Case

OCT 24 1942

LOS ANGELES, Cal. — (ANP) — Declaring that Negroes who threatened mob violence against a suspected defendant on trial are defeating the best interests of a race that has so long and frequently complained against the lynching horror by whites, Judge A. A. Scott last Wednesday, denounced asserted threats against Edward Gainous, 35, on trial for the kidnap-slaying of 7-year-old Oscar "Snookie" Rankin.

When the child's body was found buried in a vacant lot last spring, a week after he had been seen last in the company of Gainous, the discarded sweetheart of the victim's mother, Gainous, who was being held on suspicion of kidnapping, was charged with suspicion of murder.

The trial took place last Wednesday, and in the metropolitan dailies next day reporters told of hearing open threats against Gainous if he were acquitted, and that they saw a number of knives displayed in the corridor among the crowd that packed the outside as well as the inside of the court room.

OCT 24 1942

GRANTED NEW TRIAL

Judge Scott, who is outspoken against gang violence and recently sent six youths and a woman, all Mexicans, up for a long sentence in his campaign against gang fights, declares that he believes the jurors would have acquitted Gainous for lack of evidence had they not been intimidated.

OCT 24 1942

As it was, they found him guilty and recommended life sentence. The judge granted a new trial.

Although the local community believes the man guilty, there was only the circumstantial evidence of a weed caught in the trouser cuff. This matched the variety of weeds growing where the strangled victim was found.

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE

Excusing the demonstration made by colored and Mexican neighbors of little Snookie against Gainous at the time the body was found as a natural outburst, police charge any threats or attempts made against him now are purely coldblooded and premeditated.

OCT 24 1942

At that time colored and white officers had difficulty keeping the crowd from beating up Gainous, and Mrs. Gonzalos, the old grandmother of Oscar, and Sally Gonzalos, two of the children who found the body of their little playmate, even ran after and stoned the patrol car that was speeding back to Newton station with the prisoner. Plans are on foot to place anyone heard making threats at the next trial under arrest.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Coast Judge Denounces Mob Threats by Race

OCT 25 1942

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Oct. 22—(ANP)—Declaring that Negroes who threatened mob violence against a suspected defendant on trial are defeating the best interests of a race that has so long and frequently complained against the lynching horror by whites, Judge A. A. Scott Wednesday, denounced asserted threats against Edward Gainous, 35, on trial for the kidnap-slaying of 7-year-old Oscar "Snookie" Rankin.

OCT 25 1942

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Hint Streamlined Lynching On Coast

OCT 23 1942

By HARRY LEVETTE

LOS ANGELES—(ANP)—Suspecting violence in the death of Harold J. Reed, former headline cabaret entertainer, the local Associated Negro Press office has set wheels in motion for a thorough investigation. Doubt as to accidental death or suicide was aroused after an interview with Walter J. Clark.

Reed, a handsome, light complexioned young man, was found lying at the bottom of a 200 foot cliff in an old brick yard in Elysian park. Physicians who examined him reported that he had been dead three days, when found on Sept 26. He was not identified until Oct. 5, having remained in the morgue all this time.

HAD BEEN RELEASED

He had been released from custody after several days investigation and questioning in connection with a sex murder of Miss Lillian Stratton, 75. In this, one of the most dastardly of rape killings in local annals, the aged white woman had been waylaid, assaulted and strangled in South park, within 50 feet of her home. Because of the fact that children playing in the neighborhood had reported seeing a dark complexioned white man loitering near the scene of the crime late in the afternoon, Reed had been arrested.

Other grounds for their suspicion was that the officers were biased on the fact that he lived in the neighborhood. However upon no thread of evidence could they connect him with the crime and he was released. After he had left the station, this was the last time he was seen alive until his crushed and mangled body was accidentally discovered at the base of the precipice.

According to Clark, his friend since childhood in New Orleans, Reed, who had dropped out of theatrical life for several years because of illness, after his release had engaged a room at the Richard hotel but his bed had not been slept in, according to the proprietor, and he evidently had not returned to occupy the room. Police authorities left the cause of his death in doubt, reporting it as an accident or suicide. Stating there was no evidence to justify a coroners inquest. Clark left with the body Saturday, October the 11 to accompany it to New Orleans where Reed's mother resides.

BODY NOT IDENTIFIED

OCT 23 1942

So little notice of the finding of the body was made in the metropolitan daily's that few Negro citizens learned of the tragic mystery. But those who knew the victim declare that he was not the type of a young man who would either commit crime, or would destroy himself. His close friend Clark also adds that during the time Reed has lived here he had not become familiar with that portion of the suburb, where the vast hilly country of Elysian park is located.

When found the body had on no underwear and no marks of identification were found in his outside clothing which consisted only of pants and shoes. It is believed that a group of unknown persons had kidnapped Reed and either thrown him over the cliff to his death, or murdered him elsewhere then carried the body to the park and tossed it over the cliff. In either case it is thought that the murderers had removed his underwear, because it probably bore identifying laundry marks.

In the hey-day of his theatrical career, Reed had teamed with his brother in a dance act. He made his home in New York, but was booked here at Frank Sebatian's Cotton club for a long run. He had never made his home on the coast, until he returned here a year ago, but was formerly an associate of Les Hite and many other famous figures of the entertainment world. In New York he had worked at Connie's Inn.

6831

37a-1942 GENERAL

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Lynching Being Pushed Off Map, Says Interracial Commission

FEB 22 1942

Four Mob Violences Of 1941 Termed A 98 Per Cent Decrease

In spite of an occasional outbreak of barbarism, as at Sikeston, Missouri, a few days ago, the lynching habit is being steadily pushed off the map, and there is reason to hope for its practical disappearance in the early future, according to a statement from the headquarters here of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation.

The statement points out that the 1941 record of four killings classed as lynchings by Tuskegee Institute marks a decrease of 95 percent from the average of 78 lynchings a year for the sixty years just ended, and a decrease of 98 percent for the high record of 231 lynchings reported in 1892. The average for the last ten years, the Commission says, has been ten lynchings a year; for the last five years, five per year.

The statement continues:

"Highly encouraging also is the fact that in two of last year's reported lynchings, those at Andrews, S. C., and Gastonia, N. C., the perpetrators were promptly arrested, convicted, and given long prison sentences. It should be noted that Carolinians claim that these cases should be classed as homicides due to private brawls, rather than as lynchings.

"Since the tabulation of lynchings was begun in 1882, the records show a total of 4,699 victims, 83 of them women, nearly 1,300 of them white. Three-fourth of the victims were charged with homicides or lesser offenses; less than one-fourth were accused of assaults on women. Investigations have shown that many of these lynched were innocent. Though commonest in the South, lynchings have taken place in all except six New England states. Several states outside the South have had from 40 to 80 lynchings each.

"The principal agencies campaigning against lynching have been the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, heading up in New York, and the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, a Southern organization with headquarters in Atlanta. Affiliated with the latter is the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, which was organized in Atlanta in 1931 and now has a signed membership of 43,000 Southern white women."

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Aiken, S. Carolina's Lost City, Stagnates Since Cruel Lynching

JAN 3 - 1942

By CARL DUNBAR LAWRENCE

AIKEN, S. C.—Native whites call this little city the "Sports Center of the South," but your reporter is herewith changing that title to "South Carolina's Lost City."

From an economic and civic viewpoint, Aiken became doomed nearly 15 years ago when Mrs. Bertha Loman, an expectant mother, and her two brothers were riddled with bullets after being roped to a tree only half a mile from the center of town.

Until that tragic and cruel happening, Aiken was a "must" city for every visitor leaving the north, on his way to Florida.

Since then, of course, most tourists pass it by. Even if it is midnight, they drive on 17 miles to Augusta, where apparently they rest in peace and much more comfort.

Local businessmen estimate the resultant loss at "many millions," but there's nothing they can do about it. Colored residents declare that "our little city of 10,000 will never be the same because the ghosts of that Loman family will haunt these white people until the end of time."

Nobody knows whether the "curse" will last that long, but everybody is seemingly agreed that tourists now think twice before deciding to stay here for the season.

JAN 3 - 1942

Wealthy white Northerners, who own large estates here, are mainly responsible for the lack of more misery among the poor white and colored residents. But they are getting tired of trying to save a city which shows so little desire to be saved.

Many of them are selling their homes for much less than was actually paid for them a few years ago. A few are "practically giving away" their property as a protest against the high taxes fostered on them by scheming politicians.

JAN 3 - 1942

Lomans Innocent

To those unfamiliar with the Loman lynching, locals are always willing and ready, in whispered tones of course, to tell you that the late Mrs. Bertha Loman and her brothers were lynched only to save a white man from being convicted for the murder of the late Sheriff Howard.

The NAACP took a very militant part in the case through Secretary Walter White, who came here while the investigation was still going on. Incidentally, Mr. White narrowly missed being physically harmed himself when some members of the lynch-mob discovered that he was "investigating the case for the Government."

At the trial, all the testimony pointed to one of Sheriff Howard's own deputies who, it was later learned, wanted the higher post for himself. The defendants went on trial separately and, late one afternoon after a two-day trial, one of the Loman boys was acquitted.

JAN 3 - 1942

That night hundreds of ignorant whites gathered around the courthouse to listen to a mob-leader's "plea" that white people take the law into their own hands.

Half an hour later, they stormed the jail and took the Lomans to the scene of Aiken's first, and last since then, lynching.

If you think that such brutal violence cannot hurt the name of a town, you ought to visit Aiken today and talk with people who know. The few mills, operating here at the time, later moved away for a better address and less taxes.

JAN 3 - 1942

Respectable and wealthy whites moved away by the hundreds in an obvious attempt to leave the name Aiken and the ghosts of the Lomans behind. As a result, there's not a single big payroll in town. Household workers for the rich, Northern families, are the only decently paid workers here.

Others must go to Augusta, Columbia and Savannah for something substantial on the matter of regular employment. Nearby Augusta's rapid growth and the lynching of the Lomans will keep Aiken's "nose to the grindstone" for several years to come because, like other crime, lynching does not pay.

Mississippi's Lynching Spree Spurs Many Groups Into Action

OCT 24 1942

WASHINGTON—Attorney General Biddle announced here Tuesday afternoon that he had ordered an investigation of the Mississippi lynchings by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. "Assuming that the investigation develops a case, relentless prosecution will follow," the attorney general said.

While American troops were fighting a nip-and-tuck battle with the japs in the Solomon Islands, and Governor Paul B. Johnson of Mississippi was promising punishment for the mob lynchers of two 14-year-old Negro boys near Quitman, Miss., last week, some of the "forthright and democratic" citizens of the town of Laurel, Miss., were contributing their all-out war aid by taking Howard Wash, 50-year-old convicted murderer, out of jail and hanging him from a creek bridge.

Governor Johnson had hardly finished wiring Representative Vito Marcantonio (ALP) of New York in regard to the lynching of the Quitman youths:

". . . I am just as much shocked and as deeply outraged by the news of this incident as any man in the US . . . I am opposed to mob violence just as much as you are . . . I agree with you that such conduct does not help our situation in a crisis like we are going through now."

OCT 24 1942

Governor Johnson expressed himself as "deeply outraged," and said that he would make every effort "to see that the lynchers are prosecuted and punished for this outrageous act!"

OCT 24 1942

Mob Overpowers Officers

The ink was hardly dry on the Mississippi executive's signature, literally speaking, before, a large mob of men entered the jail at Laurel, Mississippi, at 1 am October 17, and took Wash out to make him a national example of the classic manner in which the southern "cracker" element is giving its all to aid American unity at a time when hirohito is banging at our back door.

COME OUT TO THE MEETING SUNDAY AT SALEM CHURCH TO HELP STOP LYNCHING

Wash had been convicted of the May 18 murder of Clint Welborn, his white dairyman employer, after a wage dispute. He was facing a life term in prison, the jury, in his case, having been unable to agree on punishment. According to Sheriff J. Press Reddoch, who estimated the lynch mob at about 100 men, he and three deputies were overpowered by mobsters and their plea ignored to let the law take its course. Wash's body was found at daylight, hanging from the bridge of "Welborn's Creek," not far from the home of the slain man. The lynching made it three in a week, sharp-shooting that would be pretty effective at Guadalcanal.

Protests Wired

Telegrams of protest have been sent to President Roosevelt from all over the nation, and in New York a country-wide program has been set underway by the National Emergency Committee to Stop Lynching. Explanation of the Committee's program and the manner in which it can be made most swiftly effective will be brought before the public at a mass meeting at Salem Methodist Church, 129 street and Seventh avenue, this Sunday, at four p.m.

Mass Meeting Sunday

The meeting, sponsored jointly by the committee and the National Negro Congress, plus the Salem Church Lyceum, will present as speakers Representative Marcantonio; Council Adam Clayton Powell jr; Dr. Max Yergan, president, National Negro Congress; Ferdinand Smith, national secretary, National Maritime Union; Mrs. Ina Wood, sentenced to ten years in prison for selling books advocating economic equality for Negroes in Oklahoma; the Rev. C. Y. Trigg, pastor of Salem; and Frank Solomon, president of the Salem Lyceum. Rev. Trigg will be chairman of the meeting, and music will be furnished by the Salem Lyceum choir.

Committee Members

A partial list of names of the Members of the National Emergency Committee to Stop Lynching, formed last Sunday at Hotel Roosevelt, is as follows: Vito Marcantonio, chairman; Ferdinand Smith, secretary; Dr. Max Yergen, treasurer; Councilman Adam Powell; Bishop David H. Sims, of the AMEChurch; C. B. Powell, publisher of the *Amsterdam Star-News;* Earl B. Dickerson, member FEPC; James Waterman Wise, research director, Council Against Intolerance; Bishop James A. Bray, president, Fraternal Council of Negro Churches in America: the Rev C. Y. Trigg; the Rev. William H. Jernagin, president, National Baptist Sunday School Union.

Dr. F. Douglas Speaks; Attorney Sara Pelham Speaks; Dan Burley, managing editor, *Amsterdam Star-News;* Assemblyman Hulan E. Jack; Assemblyman Daniel Burrows; James Egert Allen; Eugene P. Connolly; St. Clair Bourne, managing editor, *People's Voice;* Evelyn Adler; Wilfred W. Lewin; Theodore A. Jackson, eastern regional director, Dining Car Employees Union; J. Isserman; James M. Pemberton; George Murphy; Hope R. Stevens; Sabin Martinez; Charles A. Collins, and Dorothy K. Funn.

Protests against the lynchings have been wired to President Roosevelt by the following: the NAACP, who has called upon Roosevelt to speak out against lynching and to lend support to the federal anti-Lynching law; National Council of Negro Youth; Benjamin J. Davis, jr, Communist candidate for Representative-at-Large, who wired Attorney General Francis Biddle; the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties; the International Labor Defense; Furniture Union, local 76-B.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Two Dixie Youngsters Lynched by Crackers

OCT 17 1942

OCT 17 1942

MERIDIAN, Miss.—Ernie Green and Charlie Lang, both 14, died at the hands of a lynch mob under a highway bridge near Quitman, neighboring town, Sunday morning, October 11. The two youngsters, accused of attempted attack on a 13-year-old white girl, were snatched from the Clarke County jail by a mob which overpowered the jailer, according to reports.

OCT 17 1942

The boys were arrested in their home town, Shrebuta, last week, several hours after the alleged attack, are said to have confessed Saturday at a preliminary hearing in Circuit Court.

The mob reportedly invaded the jail early Sunday morning, "threw a blanket over the head" of Marshal G. F. Dabbs, jailer, and locked him in a cell where he remained "undiscovered" until the boys' bodies were "discovered" 30 hours later.

Strong protests have been wired to President Roosevelt and other officials by Editor A. Clayton Powell jr of PV, Ben Davis jr, the Poco Beauty School graduating class during a meeting at Mother AMEZion church, Assemblyman-Leader Daniel Burrows of the 19 AD, Congressman Vito Marcantonio of the International Labor Defense, and others.

OCT 17 1942

EDITORIAL

The state of Mississippi, it seems, had anticipated the words of President Roosevelt in his fireside talk of Monday night. Almost 24 hours earlier, a mob chose two 14-year-old boys as their lynch-lust victims, ". . . . to replace men of military age and fitness." Perhaps Mississippi wanted to continue in the vanguard of those contributing to the war effort—in favor of the axis. How welcome must such news be to the nazi press as a relief from dreaming up hopeful communiques about the Stalingrad situation. hitler must be smiling happily—STB.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Those persons who wish to register their emphatic protest over this lynching of two adolescent youths are advised to write or wire President Roosevelt immediately.

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

ASK ACTION IN LYNCHINGS

OCT 16 1942

Hanging Two Boys Stirs

No One Held In Case In Mississippi

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 13—The wanton lynching of two 14-year-old schoolboys at Quitman, Miss. about 1 a. m. Sunday has aroused strong appeals to Washington for the enactmen of an anti lynching bill by congress The NAACP, and March on Washington Committee appealed for action by the FBI which has already investigated two lynchings this year but failed to bring about arrests.

OCT 16 1942

Quitman, Miss., Oct. 13—After tipping officials off on their movements and without wearing mass a group of 50 men walked into the unguarded Clark County jail here early Monday and removed two helpless 14-year-old Negro boys from the custody of a lone jailer. The battered bodies of the pair who had been accused by a 13-year-old white girl of trying to waylay her on way from school, were found next morning hanging from a bridge over a stream north of Shubuta, eight miles from here. The victims lived closeby and six other Negroes had been lynched in the same vicinity in the past.

The boys Charles Lang and Ernest Green were arrested Oct. 9. They were given a preliminary hearing Saturday and returned to the county jail. The jailer and Marshall, C. F. Dodds stated that the mob members knocked on the door and he let them in whereon they threw a blanket over his head before he could he could see who they were. A finding that the boys came to their deaths by parties unknown was returned at an inquest.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Two Youths, 14 Each, Are Lynched

OCT 17 1942

MERIDAN, Miss.—Two 14-year-old Negro youths, several years too young to be drafted in even the new 18 to 19 year old category mentioned by President Roosevelt in his address Monday night, were lynched by a mob here after being taken from the Quitman jail. They were found hanging dead from a bridge.

The youths, Charlie Lang and Ernest Green, both of Shubuta, were accused of waylaying a 13-year-old white girl and trying to rape her.

The two youths, who were hung to the bridge on which the white girl is reported to have been waylaid, were taken from the jail after City Marshall G. F. Dabbs was apparently overpowered.

A blanket was reported to have been thrown over the marshall's head. His arms were pinned and he was locked in the women's cell block after being deprived of his keys.

The bodies of the 14 year old boys were found Monday morning by Sheriff Lloyd McNeal of Clarke County. According to press dispatches, the lynchings "were carried out quietly and swiftly."

OCT 17 1942

It was reported that the two youths had pleaded guilty.

EARLIER LYNCHINGS

The Tuskegee Department of Research reported only one lynching in the first six months of 1942.

However, since that time a lynching has been recorded in Texarkana, Ark. and several soldier deaths under peculiar circumstances are being investigated to determine if they are mob lynchings.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Giving Aid To Our Enemies

OCT 16 1942

The lynching last Monday of two 14-year-old youths by a Mississippi mob of white men is another link in the swelling chain of abuses by southern damagogs against Negro citizens of America. And whether they will admit it or not, they are doing Hitler's work in this country far more effectively than any Nazi agents could possibly do it. These are the people who unconsciously work to divide our strength and weaken our unity.

OCT 16 1942

Somehow, it is going to be obligatory upon our government at Washington to devise some means by which these saboteurs of our war effort can be handled, at least for the duration of this war. For it would be foolish to suppose that such acts as the one committed Monday can continue without lowering the morale and fighting spirit of our soldiers or undermining the confidence of our civilians in the stakes of this war.

OCT 16 1942

More than that, the natives of Africa, India and China, and the colored peoples throughout the world, will view more critically the cause of the United Nations in this global struggle because of such occurrences. For what happened Monday may even serve to prolong this war for years, and it may cost many lives. No one can estimate accurately the amount of injury done to our cause by the half-hearted support of the natives of Malay, Burma, and other backward communities. In fact some of the natives aided the Japanese against the British. Enemy propaganda, especially the Japanese, can use these acts of savagery to great advantage against our cause.

OCT 16 1942

Governor Johnson, deploring the lynching, issued a statement saying that the Sheriff had assured him that things were well under control. Despite this assurance and although the Sheriff had ample time to appear to Governor Johnson for help, the lynching took place. Nevertheless, the governor's strong words of indictment are to be commended. And we trust these words will be followed up by concrete actions, to the end that these outlaws will be brought to justice.

Two Negro Children Lynched

While Mississippi Congressman John Rankin was ranting on the floor of Congress yesterday during the poll tax battle that Congress was "waging a war against the white people of the southern states," two Negro children were found lynched in his home state.

OCT 13 1942

The two children, 14 years old, were lynched by a mob of the type Rankin has been inciting in his hysterical Jim Crow defeatist speeches in the House of Representatives.

By Albert Deutsch:

Kid-Lynchers

OCT 13 1942

Federal Action Needed to Halt Lynching Atrocities

The unspeakable act perpetrated on a Mississippi bridge Monday should bring the sting of shame to every decent American. When a race-mad mob of morons lynches a couple of 14-year old kids, one begins to wonder if even a colored infant in its crib is immune from the perverted wrath of such sorry specimens of *homo sapiens*.

The news dispatch follows the well-grooved pattern of lynching stories we have come to expect from the benighted area which boasts a John E. Rankin as one of its representatives in Congress:

The two boys, charged with the attempted rape of a 13-year old white girl, were taken from jail by a mob of "unidentified men," who "overpowered" the "surprised" city marshal after he answered a knock on the door.

OCT 13 1942

The dispatch tells us that City Marshal Dabbs was guarding the jail alone when it was stormed by the mob. It adds, significantly, that six lynchings had previously occurred at the same bridge where the two boys were hanged.

It is hard to believe that the marshal was greatly surprised by the visit of his lynch-bent visitors. It is hard to believe that adequate protection couldn't have been given the two boys if the police authorities had wished sincerely to see justice done.

The whole affair is a stench to the nostrils of every law-abiding citizen with a sense of fair play. Lynching is execrable under any circumstance. But when a mob deliberately drags a pair of 14-year olds from jail for a lynching bee, it hits an abysmal low in human conduct.

Lynch-rule can't be localized. A civilized nation can't tolerate it anywhere within its border. In this great war crisis it becomes not only a humanitarian, but a political and military problem.

OCT 13 1942

Every lyncher in that party deserves a personal presentation of the Iron Cross from Herr Hitler himself. He deserves honorary membership in Der Fuehrer's Black Corps, for he has done more for the Nazi cause than a battalion of stormtroopers.

We may be sure that the Goebbels propaganda mill is already broadcasting the incident to every corner of the world. The Nazis have always exploited lynching in America as a major propaganda weapon against us. When our scholars tear apart the Nazi race myth, the Hitlerites point to our own lynching record. When we express horror at Nazi atrocities, they throw back the taunt, "Look who's talking!"

Every detail of every lynching is broadcast by the Nazi radio stations to the colored peoples of the world, who represent the majority of the human population and include some of our most valuable allies. We'd only be kidding ourselves if we brushed off this type of propaganda as ineffective.

The Mississippi child-lynching shows once more that Federal action is needed to blot out this curse. It is high time to revive and pass the anti-lynching bill introduced by Rep. Joseph A. Gavagan of New York.

The Gavagan bill makes it a felony for any state or local peace officer to fail to use "all diligent effort" to protect any person in his custody from mob violence. It also holds localities liable to civil suits in Federal courts for lynchings within their borders.

Every lyncher should be vigorously sought out and punished as a murderer, and a fellow one at that. In war-time, he is worse than a Nazi saboteur.

Mississippi's Duty To Answer the Axis

Courier-Journal

The lynching of two 14-year-old Negro boys at Quitman, Miss., shortly after midnight Monday morning, bears more than its usual hideous cast of barbarism at such a time. The inexcusable crime is an overt act that plays into the hands of Axis propagandists who mention lynchings prominently among their instances of white democratic hypocrisy.

Louisville Ky.

How shall that be answered in the face of such flagrancy and circumstances which offer not the slightest mitigation? The boys had confessed to attempted rape and were in the custody of the law. Governor PAUL JOHNSON's denunciation of the lynching as murder and promise to do everything possible to bring the perpetrators to justice won't undo what has been done and this raises Mississippi's lynching record up to 103 the last 22 years.

OCT 14 1942

The obvious fact [illegible] state and local authorities did nothing to protect those two boys. They were not moved to a place of safety; their jail custodian, the town marshal, was overpowered without violence, apparently without a scratch. If there wasn't complicity, there was negligence. In a neighborhood that had witnessed six lynchings, official vigilance was lacking.

Mississippi has not prevented lynchings in the past, notwithstanding the arguments of statesmen like Messrs. RANKIN and BILBO that this could be done without federal legislation. But Mississippians can answer in only one way what the Axis propagandists will now be dinning into the ears of colored peoples here at home and everywhere in the world. That answer must be prompt detection and punishment of the criminals responsible. In the circumstances of today, Mississippi owes a duty not only to herself but to the cause in which her sons are fighting.

2 Boys Killed By Lynch Mob

OCT 13 1942

Special Correspondence

MERIDIAN, Miss., Oct. 13.—The bodies of two 14-year-old Negro boys, victims of lynch murderers who snatched them from the Pittman jail, were found yesterday hanging from the Sbulbuta River Bridge, 35 miles south of here.

The slain boys were said to have pleaded guilty of waylaying a 13-year-old white girl and trying to rape her. The bridge, scene of six previous lynchings, was the same one on which the girl allegedly had been waylaid as she walked home from school.

City Marshal C. F. Dabbs of Pittman said he was alone in the jail office Sunday evening when he opened the door in response to a knock.

A blanket was thrown over his head and his arms were pinned, he said, after which he was robbed of his keys and locked in a cell.

OCT 13 1942

The lynchers and their victims were gone when Dabb's plight was discovered. Sheriff Lloyd McNeal of Clarke County began a search for the boys which naturally led to the scene of the original crime where he found the bodies.

So far this year four Negroes have been lynched in the South. Last April, Cleo Wright, a cotton-mill worker, was dragged through the streets of Sikeston, Mo. and burned to death. In July, Willie Vinson was taken from a hospital bed in Texarkana, Ark., dragged through the streets and hanged.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

6835

Bodies Found Dangling From River Bridge

OCT 13 1942

Boys Arrested For Allegedly Waylaying Girl

MERIDIAN, Miss. — (SNS)— Two 14-year-old boys were lynched about 35 miles south or here, it was disclosed Monday after bodies of the youths were found dangling from a river bridge.

The two boys, identified as Charlie Lang and Ernest Green, both of Shubuta, were taken from the Quitman jail Sunday by a mob of blood-thirsty white men, given the customary pre-lynching treatment, and then left to die in a deserted woody section.

OCT 13 1942

Another customary note attached to the lynching report was that the mob members were unidentified. And there was nothing unusual about the report that the mob overpowered the city marshal, C. F. Dabbs, in taking the two boys from the jail.

Reports reaching here said the two boys were arrested Tuesday of last week and accused of waylaying a 13-year-old white girl who was walking home from school.

Both of the boys allegedly entered pleas of guilt to charges of attempted assault.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Miss. Governor Says He'll Try To Bring Lynchers To Justice

OCT 14 1942

JACKSON, Miss. (SNS)—Governor Paul Johnson declared Tuesday that he will do all in his power to bring to justice a group of unidentified white men who lynched two 14-year-old colored boys early Monday in Clarke County.

"I will exert every reasonable effort to see that the violated laws of Mississippi are vindicated. Such acts are spots upon the good name of Mississippi and the better class of people here condemn this wrong," the governor said.

The bodies of Charlie Lang and Ernest Green, both of Shubuta, were found dangling from a bridge. They were arrested Tuesday of last week on charges of waylaying a white school girl.

Police said the boys entered pleas of guilty to attempted assault.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Mob Lynches Two Negro Boys Accused of Attack

OCT 13 1942

Shubuta, Miss., Oct. 12 (AP).—The bodies of two 14-year-old Negro boys were found today swinging from a railroad bride under which they attacked a 13-year-old white girl last week.

Sheriff Lloyd McNeal of Clarke County found the bodies of Charlie Lang and Ernest Green.

They had been arrested last Tuesday and pleaded guilty to attempted rape of the girl.

The sheriff said a mob of unidentified men overpowered the jailer Sunday, locked him in a cell and proceeded with the lynching.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

BODIES OF LYNCHED YOUTHS ARE FOUND

OCT 13 1942

MERIDIAN, Miss., Oct. 12—(AP)—Charlie Lang and Ernest Green, 14-year-old Negro boys, of Shubuta, were lynched by an angry mob of unidentified men here Sunday, it was learned Monday, on discovery of their bodies swinging from a railroad river bridge under which they attacked a white 13-year-old girl last week.

Sheriff Lloyd McNeal, of Clarke County, investigating reports of the absence of the youths from the Quitman jail, found their bodies suspended from the upper river bridge a mile from Shubuta, scene of six earlier lynchings.

OCT 13 1942

They had been arrested last Tuesday, and pleaded guilty to attempted rape of the white girl, at a preliminary hearing. She was waylaid as she walked home from school. They were placed in jail at Quitman. The mob apparently overpowered the jailer sometime Sunday, threw him into a cell, took his keys, and proceeded with the lynching, the sheriff said.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

A Shameful Abuse

In Clarke County, Miss., an "unidentified" group of men Monday took two 14-year-old Negro boys from the Quitman jail and hung them from a bridge. The boys had pleaded guilty to charges of criminal attack on a 13-year-old white girl.

OCT 14 1942

This double lynching was a shameful violation of the law, horrible as was the inciting crime. It was an act committed without regard to true justice. It was a cowardly act by men who had, they proved by their actions, no respect for the laws of their state. The whole South is shamed again.

Gov. Paul Johnson, of Mississippi, has said that he will do everything in his power to bring to justice the men who committed these two murders. "Such acts," he said, "are spots upon the good name of Mississippi and the better class of people here condemn this wrong."

OCT 14 1942

All Southerners who believe in justice under law—that for which this nation and others now fight—will fervently hope that the guilty men are apprehended and punished.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Mississippi Is Lynching Site

OCT 18 1942

Jones County Area Being Scoured For Members Of Mob

OCT 18 1942

LAUREL, Miss., Oct. 17.—(AP)—Circuit Judge F. Burkitt Collins today recalled the Jones County grand jury into immediate session to investigate the lynching early today of Howard Wash, 49-year-old negro farm hand convicted in his court yesterday of the murder of Clint Welborn, farmer and dairyman, last May 18.

A few hours after the negro was taken from the county jail by a mob of between 75 and 100 white men. A widespread investigation was under way by State and county officials and reports in court circles said three or more citizens had been arrested in connection with the lynching although no formal charges had been filed.

The negro received an automatic life sentence when the jury failed to agree upon the punishment, but sentence had not yet been pronounced when he was lynched.

OCT 18 1942

Judge Collins, informed of the mob action around 2 a.m., notified Gov. Paul B. Johnson at Jackson and the Governor quickly dispatched two companies of Mississippi State Guards but they arrived after the lynching occurred.

The Governor in a statement said he was doing everything within his power to apprehend the guilty persons and bring them to justice.

"As soon as I heard of the trouble shortly after midnight," Johnson said, "I sent members of the Highway Patrol and troops of the State Guard and a personal investigator to Laurel."

"I have been advised by my investigator that three or four of the mob involved in the lynching have been apprehended and are in jail there. The troops have gone out again to arrest others," he said.

OCT 18 1942

The Guardsmen were equipped with hand grenades and tear gas bombs and took up stations about the jail and neighborhood.

Governor Johnson also dispatched a specal investigator and about ten members of the State Police here.

Deputy Sheriff I. O. Fowler said armed mob members overpowered Sheriff J. Press Reddoch by grabbing him and hustling him out of the way.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

Soldiers Keep Order As Jury Investigates Mississippi Lynching

OCT 18 1942

Governor Says He Will Do His 'Dead Level Best' To See Justice Is Done

OCT 18 1942

LAUREL, Miss. (AP)—Gov. Paul B. Johnson stationed two units of the Mississippi State guard here to insure order while the Jones County Grand Jury launched an investigation into the lynching early Saturday of Howard Wash, 49, Negro slayer of a white farmer, and declared he would do his "dead level best" to see that justice was done.

The lynching was the third in Mississippi this week, two 14-year-old Negroes having been hanged to a bridge by a mob near Shubuta Monday morning after the youths were charged with an attempted attack on a 13-year-old white girl.

The governor said at Jackson three or four alleged members of the mob of an estimated 75 to 100 white men who took Wash out of the Jones County Jail early Saturday and hanged him had been apprehended and that the troops had gone out to arrest others.

"As soon as I heard of the trouble shortly after midnight," Johnson said, "I sent members of the highway patrol and troops of the State Guard and a personal investigator to Laurel."

OCT 18 1942

The guardsmen arrived too late to prevent the lynching but, armed with guns, tear gas bombs and hand grenades, they took up their stations about the jail and courthouse to forestall any further violence.

Circuit Judge F. Burkitt Collins notified the governor of the mob violence around 2 a.m. and requested troops, one unit arriving shortly after the lynching and the other about daybreak.

Several hours later the judge, in whose court Wash was convicted Friday of the murder of his employer, Clint Welborn, recalled the Grand Jury and asked for a thorough investigation. The jury's session lasted late into the day and a number of witnesses were examined.

The state asked the death penalty at the trial on the claim that Wash beat Welborn over the head with a milk bucket and fatally injured him in an argument over the employer's reprimand for the laborer's tardy reporting for work.

Counsel for Wash set up a claim of self defense, alleging Wash used the milk can after Welborn attacked him with a shovel.

The trial jury convicted Wash of murder but was unable to agree on punishment, making a life sentence mandatory. The defendant had not been sentenced at the time of the lynching.

Deputy Sehirf Lester Welch, one of five officers which the mob stood off early Saturday, said a previous showing was made Sunday by a delegation of men who called at the jail for the keys but left after being refused. Precautions were taken after that, he said, with deputies sleeping in the courthouse.

OCT 18 1942

In Saturday's storming the men, armed with guns, brushed aside Sheriff J. Press Reddoch and disarmed him and then overpowered other deputies and took the cell keys from Jailer Luther Holder.

Wash was spirited away and hanged to a small bridge near the scene of the crime.

Welch said he threatened to shoot members of the mob if they attemped to interfere with him and the men did not molest him but he was powerless to stop them.

Two ministers called by Gov. Johnson to treat with the mob in an attempt to prevent violence failed to arrive on the scene in time. Attempts of the sheriff and his deputies to plead were brushed aside and the officers were surrounded by some of the mob members while others entered the jail and picked their quarry.

OCT 18 1942

Five other Negro prisoners, one accused of attacking a white woman, were removed from the Jones County Jail to Jackson for safekeeping.

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

Mississippi Mob Lynches Murderer

OCT 17 1942

By the Associated Press.

LAUREL, Miss., Oct. 17.—Howard Wash, a Negro sentenced to life imprisonment here yesterday for the murder last May of his employer, Clint Welborn, a dairyman, was taken from the jail today and lynched.

Two companies of State Guards arrived early today to patrol the jail and vicinity. Five other Negroes, one accused of attacking a white woman and four held on murder charges, were taken to Jackson for safekeeping.

Today's was the third lynching in Mississippi this week. Two 14-year-old Negro boys were hanged by a mob near Shubuta on Monday after they pleaded guilty to attacking a 13-year-old white schoolgirl.

OCT 17 1942

Asserts Sheriff Unable To Act

NOV 7 - 1942

Mississippi Lynchings Continue to Go Unpunished Despite Denunciation By White Leaders, FBI Probe

By VICTOR H. BERNSTEIN
(Special Correspondent, The Pittsburgh Courier and PM)
(Copyright, 1942, Field Publications and The Pittsburgh Courier)

NOV 7 - 1942

JACKSON, Miss., Nov. 5—Charlie Lang and Ernest Green were found hanging from the Shubuta bridge Monday, October 12. Saturday, October 17, Howard Wash, 49, was hanged from another bridge near Laurel in Jones county.

Wash was charged with the murder of his employer, Clint Welborn, a dairyman. He was tried by Circuit Judge Burkitt Collins and a jury of Jones County citizens. His lawyer pleaded self-defense. The jury found him guilty.

Under Mississippi law, juries have the right to impose sentence in murder cases. They can order the death penalty, or life imprisonment, or they can certify disagreement. This jury certified disagreement, and under law this would have required Judge Collins to impose a life sentence on Wash.

AN OPEN ACT

Wash was taken out of his cell and hanged in the night hours between the end of his trial and the morning he was formally to receive sentence.

Unlike the Shubuta case, there was no secrecy in the lynching of Wash.

NOV 7 - 1942

Laurel is a town of 20,000-odd. I would not be surprised if at least 1,000 of these people know the names and faces of one or more of those who took part in the lynching. Four or five were arrested by State Guards sent down by Governor Johnson. They have been released since.

NOV 7 - 1942

LYNCHED WITH JURY IN SESSION

A Grand Jury was in session when the lynching took place. It was charged with investigating the event. Two days later the Grand Jury made its report—and did not mention the lynching.

I talked to Judge Collins in the Laurel County courthouse. He is a slim man, perhaps 55, and soft-spoken, like most Southerners. He said he never made statements to the newspapers and would tell me only what already was a matter of public record.

FAIR TRIAL?

The record, he said, would show that Wash got a fair trial. He would not presume to say why the jury—a Southern jury, a Jones County jury of local people—could not agree on the death penalty. I asked him whether it might be because the evidence indicated there was some truth in the self-defense plea.

NOV 7 - 1942

He spread his hands. "I never presume to read the mind of the jury."

I asked him about the Grand Jury. "Why hadn't it acted?"

"The proceedings of the Grand Jury," he said gently, "are secret."

DENOUNCES LYNCHING

He said I could quote him on his opposition to lynching. "It's murder," he said. But he said there was nothing he could do about it.

I asked, "Couldn't you call a special grand jury?"

"Yes, that's in my power. But I simply haven't the time. I've seven murder cases to take care of this term. That's a lot for one small district. Then I've got to open a new term in a nearby county."

"So there's been a murder in your district, and it seem that no one can do anything about it.'

"Well, I understand the FBI is down here investigating."

"Do you think they'll get anywhere—and that, if they did, the lynchers could be brought to trial, convicted, and punished?"

"I wouldn't know," said the judge.

NOV 7 - 1942

ONE STRONG EDITORIAL

The Laurel LEADER-CALL had written a strong editorial denouncing the lynching. It was perhaps the strongest I read in the South.

I went around looking for responsible citizens who felt ashamed. There was a minister whose name had been given me, a distinguished, white-haired gentleman who must, I am sure, look magnificent in a pulpit. He told me the lynching was a blot on the community. He said it was sabotage, because it tended to undermine law and order under the liberties for which we were fighting.

"That sounds very good," I said. "I presume you told that to your congregation in a sermon?"

WOULDN'T PREACH SERMON

"Why, no," he said, "I gave the matter a great deal of thought, and decided against a sermon. After all, I know that a majority of the leading members of the congregation agree with my point of view, so what would be the use of a sermon?"

"So you didin't say anything about it at all?"

He looked hurt. I brought the matter up with the Young People in my Sunday school class," he said stiffly. "I assure you the young people were very interested."

WHITES WORRIED

I talked to a responsible businessman, "Yes, the lynching was an outrage. Of course, there were extenuating circumstances. The 'n——rs' have been giving Laurel a good deal of trouble lately. Shootings, stabbings. They get drunk, the 'n——rs' do, on Saturday nights. The whites are getting worried, with their young menfolk going off to war and leaving the white women unprotected.

"We got to keep the n——rs in their place," he said.

"You mean hanging on a bridge?" I asked.

"No," he said hastily. "Not that. No responsible person in Laurel favors lynching. But you Northerners get our backs up with all your shouting and hullabaloo. Why don't you leave us alone? We could settle our problems fine if you'd leave us alone."

"How would you settle this one?" I asked.

NOV 7 - 1942

He didn't know.

GOVERNOR'S POSITION

"I'd spend every cent of this state's tax money," Governor Johnson told me, "to run down the lynchers—if I thought it would do any good.

"I've got letters from all over the South praising my stand. The people of Mississippi are good people. The people of the South are good people. They don't like to see murder done—neither by white men nor by Negroes."

He asked me if I were familiar with what he had done in the lynching cases so far.

Yes, I said I knew.

I said to the Governor that I thought he had spoken with great firmness and courage in these trying days.

WARNS OF PREJUDICES

"Yes," he said. He looked at me for a moment. "I don't know you, and I don't know how much you know about the South. You know we have certain prejudices down here."

"I told him that, yes, I knew that the South had certain prejudices.

"Now these prejudices are born in us,' 'the Governor said. "You konw there's nobody down here would sit down with a Negro and eat at the same table. You know we'd rather die first, don't you?"

I said yes, I'd been told that before.

NOV 7 - 1942

ADMIRER OF LINCOLN

"There's no one down here in Mississippi got a friendlier feeling for the Negro than I have," the Governor continued. "You see that picture of Abraham Lincoln on the wall behind me? I guess I'm the first Governor of this State would have that picture on his wall. I'm a great admirer of Mr. Lincoln.

"But our feelings toward the Negro are our own business, and certain people in the North are trying to make it their business. The President's wife, for instance. And that's bad. We're a very proud people in the South, in Mississippi, and you just make us mad that way."

NOV 7 - 1942

CONCERN ABOUT NEGRO

He told me about the whites going off to war in larger percentages than the Negroes, many of whom are kept out by illiterarcy or disease. He reminded me that Mississippi in normal times is 50 per cent Negro, and that the percentage is now climbing almost daily.

"There are counties," he said. "where the Negroes outnumber the whites nearly 10 to 1."

"Yes," I said. "But in Clarke and Jones counties the whites outnumber the Negroes at least 3 to 2, maybe more."

"I'm not defending lynching," the Governor said. "I'm bitter against lynchings. I think lynchings are murder. But they are our own problem, and we have got to handle them our own way."

"What way is that, Governor?"

STYMIED FOR ANSWER

He didn't say anything for a moment. He knew what was in my mind. He hadn't really "handled" anything so far, despite his earnest statements to the press and his sending of State Guards.

UNABLE TO ENFORCE?

He said:

"I have done all I could. Mississippi law doesn't permit me to call a special grand jury, or to remove officials who might be delinquent in their duties. I asked the legislature for the power of removal of county officials last year. It didn't give it to me."

"Look," I said, "The sheriff doesn't arrest, the grand jury doesn't indict, the petty jury doesn't convict, and the State's Governor lacks power to do anything. But murder has been committed and someone is guilty. What's the answer?"

SUGGESTS EDUCATION

"Education," said the Governor. "We've got to teach our people to have respect for law and order."

I couldn't help but think of my Laurel minister friend's Young People's Sunday school class. I wondered what Charlie Lang and Ernest Green, aged somewhere between 14 and 18, would have thought about that class. I wonder what their mothers are thinking now about education as a cure for corpses swinging in the wind?

37a-1942
Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Lifeless Bodies Hanged From Bridge Near Jail

OCT 17 1942

OCT 17 1942

The sovereign state of Mississippi, home of Congressman John Rankin, arch-foe of anti-poll tax legislation, sunk to unusual depths Monday when it celebrated Columbus Day by lynching two 14-year old boys, accused of way-laying a 13-year-old white girl on her way home.

A few hours before the nation's Chief Executive broadcast his Columbus Day message, urging America and the world to fight for justice and the rights of man, a mob of several brave men "overpowered" the sheriff of Quitman, Miss., "robbed" him of his keys, removed the two boys from the jail, lynched them, and left their lifeless bodies hanging from the bridge over which the girl was supposed to be walking when the alleged attack occurred.

Murderers Unknown

The lynching over, the sheriff was discovered and a search for the missing boys—Charles Lang and Ernest Green—both of Shubuta, Miss., came to a successful end when the sheriff of an adjoining county found their dead bodies.

OCT 17 1942

Perhaps before you have read this story, the perfunctory coroner's inquest will have been held—if Mississippi knows about inquests—and a jury of twelve men, the dead boys' peers, will have brought in a verdict of "murder by persons unknown."

Nation's Shame

War or no war, Mississippi is going to enjoy its outdoor sport—the sport which makes America so hypocritical as it prates about the "Four Freedoms" and its adherence to the Atlantic Charter; the sport which makes our nation hang its head in shame.

Somewhere in the world, there is "The Bridge of Sighs." Mississippi has its "Bridge of Lynchings", since no less than six lynch mobs have found this bridge a handy place to perpetrate their lawlessness.

OCT 17 1942

Stench In Nostrils

Writing in PM under the caption, "Kid-Lynchers", Albert Deutsch, after characterizing the lynching as an "unspeakable act," writes:

"The whole affair is a stench to the nostrils of every law-abiding citizen with a sense of fair play. Lynching is execrable under any circumstance. But when a mob deliberately drags a pair of 14-year olds from jail for a lynching bee, it hits abysmal low in human conduct."

Deutsch concludes his bitter arraignment of the brave mobsters as follows:

OCT 17 1942

"The Mississippi child-lynching shows once more that Federal action is needed to blot out this curse. It is hig time to revive and pass the anti-lynching bill introduced by Rep. Joseph A. Gavagan, of New York.

"The Gavagan bill makes it a felony for any state or local peace officer to fail to use "all diligent effort" to protect any person in his custody from mob violence. It also holds localities liable to civil suits in Federal courts for lynchings within their borders.

OCT 17 1942

Every lyncher should be vigorously sought out and punished as a murderer, and a yellow one at that. In war-time, he is worse than a Nazi saboteur."

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

Soldiers Keep Order As Jury Investigates Mississippi Lynching

OCT 18 1942

Governor Says He Will Do His 'Dead Level Best' To See Justice Is Done

OCT 18 1942

LAUREL, Miss.—(AP)—Gov. Paul B. Johnson stationed two units of the Mississippi State guard here to insure order while the Jones County Grand Jury launched an investigation into the lynching early Saturday of Howard Wash, 49, Negro slayer of a white farmer, and declared he would do his "dead level best" to see that justice was done.

The lynching was the third in Mississippi this week, two 14-year-old Negroes having been hanged to a bridge by a mob near Shubuta Monday morning after the youths were charged with an attempted attack on a 13-year-old white girl.

The governor said at Jackson three or four alleged members of the mob of an estimated 75 to 100 white men who took Wash out of the Jones County Jail early Saturday and hanged him had been apprehended and that the troops had gone out to arrest others.

"As soon as I heard of the trouble shortly after midnight," Johnson said, "I sent members of the highway patrol and troops of the State Guard and a personal investigator to Laurel."

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OCT 18 1942

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Several hours later the judge, in whose court Wash was convicted Friday of the murder of his employer, Clint Welborn, recalled the Grand Jury and asked for a thorough investigation. The jury's session lasted late into the day and a number of witnesses were examined.

The state asked the death penalty at the trial on the claim that Wash beat Welborn over the head with a milk bucket and fatally injured him in an argument over the employer's reprimand for the laborer's tardy reporting for work.

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The trial jury convicted Wash of murder but was unable to agree on punishment, making a life sentence mandatory. The defendant had not been sentenced at the time of the lynching.

Deputy Sehirf Lester Welch, one of five officers which the mob stood off early Saturday, said a previous showing was made Sunday by a delegation of men who called at the jail for the keys but left after being refused. Precautions were taken after that, he said, with deputies sleeping in the courthouse.

OCT 18 1942

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Welch said he threatened to shoot members of the mob if they attemped to interfere with him and the men did not molest him but he was powerless to stop them.

Two ministers called by Gov. Johnson to treat with the mob in an attempt to prevent violence failed to arrive on the scene in time. Attempts of the sheriff and his deputies to plead were brushed aside and the officers were surrounded by some of the mob members while others entered the jail and picked their quarry.

OCT 18 1942

Five other Negro prisoners, one accused of attacking a white woman, were removed from the Jones County Jail to Jackson for safekeeping.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois



OCT 18 1942

Arrows on map indicate locations of lynchings in Mississippi.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

Mississippi Lynching Two at a Time Now

OCT 17 1942

BULLETIN

Governor Paul B. Johnson, of Mississippi, has promised to "exert every reasonable effort" to apprehend the lynchers of Charlie Lang and Ernest Green. He denounced the lynchers as murderers and promised that "the laws of Mississippi will be vindicated."

The lynching of two 14-year-old boys in Shubuta, Miss., brought the total number of lynchings that have occurred this year to four.

OCT 17 1942

The bodies of the boys, Charlie Lang and Ernest Green, were found hanging from the Shubuta River Bridge, 35 miles south of Meridian. The bridge had been the scene of six previous lynchings, and was the same bridge on which the boys are said to have attempted to assault a 13-year-old white girl, as she was walking home from school.

Pleaded Guilty

The youths had been arrested last Tuesday and are said to have pleaded guilty to the girl's charges. They were taken to the Pittman jail in Shubuta.

City Marshal G. F. Dobbs said he was alone in the jail office Sunday evening when he opened the door in response to a knock.

Used Blanket

A blanket was thrown over his head and his arms were pinned, he said, after which he was robbed of his keys and locked in a cell.

OCT 17 1942

The lynchers and their victims were gone when Sheriff Lloyd McNeal of Clarke County, "discovered" Dobbs' plight. He began an immediate "search" for the victims, and "found" them hanging on the same bridge where six other Negroes had been lynched in the past.

The marshal said the mob threw the blanket over him too quickly for him to identify any of them.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Ask President To Condemn Mobs In Mississippi

OCT 20 1942

NEW YORK—(SNS)—Pointing out that the lynching of two fourteen-year-old boys at Quitman, Miss., October 12, "damaged the cause of our country in this national crisis," the NAACP has called upon President Roosevelt to speak out against lynching and to lend support to the enactment of a federal anti-lynching law.

OCT 20 1942

"We shall continue to press for a federal anti-lynching law," the NAACP letter said, "and we earnestly solicit such aid and encouragement for this legislation as your powerful office can give.

"These victims, mere children, were the fourth and fifth persons lynching during 1942.

"We protest this lynching, as we have protested all those that have gone before; but we are more shocked and outraged, as we are sure every decent American must be, at the thought that anywhere in our land in 1942 could be found a mob which would hang two boys barely in their teens."

The NAACP announced that it is bringing renewed pressure upon Congress for enactment of an anti-lynching law in view of the five lynchings of 1942.

OCT 20 1942

MISSISSIPPI LYNCHERS HELP AXIS, SAYS FEDERAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES SECRETARY

NEW YORK CITY—(SNS)—In a telegram to Attorney General Francis Biddle asking him "to take appropriate steps to apprehend and take all possible legal action" against the lynchers of two Negro boys this week in Mississippi, Dr. George E. Haynes, executive secretary, Department of Race Relations, Federal Council of Churches, referred to the effects of the incident on our allies in Asia and elsewhere.

OCT 20 1942

In releasing the telegram Dr Haynes said, "The lynching of those two Negro boys is but another evidence of the wave of violence against Negroes from those who are in panic because the color caste is threatening to crumble under the impact of the war. The act of the lynchers is surely helping the Axis. With it reported that the day following the lynching the incident was sent out over the radio Hitler from Berlin, it is clear without a doubt that patriotic citizens of America should join in stopping these fifth columnists."

The full telegram is as follows:

OCT 20 1942

"We have been outrageously shocked by the lynching of two Negro boys in Mississippi and its effects on our Allies in Asia and elsewhere. Because of the national interests involved at home as well as abroad we judge you will take appropriate steps to apprehend and take all possible legal action against those guilty. Any way our organization can help please call upon us.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

Another Lynching:

Within a week, three Negroes were lynched in Mississippi. Early Monday, Oct. 12, two 14-year-old Negro boys, charged with attacking a 13-year-old white girl, were taken from the jail in Quitman and hanged from a bridge. Five days later, a Negro man convicted of murder was seized by a group estimated to number between 75 and 100 men, taken from the Jones County Jail and hanged.

OCT 20 1942

Yesterday, it was reported from Hazelhurst, Miss., Gov. Paul B. Johnson had stationed deputies, highway patrolmen and state guardsmen in that area as search went on for an escaped Negro man charged with slaying a law officer.

Gov. Johnson said that he was doing everything he could to locate the escaped Negro, to see that he is protected and is given a fair trial.

The governor, immediately following the lynching of the two 14-year-old Negro boys, promised to do everything in his power to bring about the apprehension of the men committing the crime. It was reported that three or four men allegedly members of the mob committing the other lynching had been apprehended.

OCT 20 1942

This later lynching adds to the great concern of the Southern people. Lynching, no matter how horrible the provocative crime, is itself murder. Lynching constitutes a flagrant disregard for the established laws of this country. It is an obvious evidence of belief that certain laws are not to be respected.

In our neighboring state of Mississippi there must be many loyal citizens who are deeply grieved at the actions of those two mobs. Throughout the nation attention has again been directed to the South. The fine work of a great many Southerners to prevent lynching was, within the space of six days, greatly set back.

It is through no superficial desire to "touch" men that we say, at this hour in our history when we are all pledged to win victory in the present war, that crimes of this nature are actually crimes against our states, our nation, against our democratic way of life. Among the things for which we now are fighting is the tradition of a healthy respect for law and order.

OCT 20 1942

In the name of freedom, let every man realize and understand that it is against the laws of his country that such crimes are committed, that when justice is so violently abused, it is an evidence of disrespect for those very principles for which we now fight.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

Kid Lynchers

OCT 17 1942

Albert Deutsch, commenting on the Mississippi lynchings, in the newspaper P.M., under the caption, "Kid Lynchers," expresses so completely and fully the sentiments of the TRIBUNE, that we reprint it in full here:

"The unspeakable act perpetrated on a Mississippi bridge Monday should bring the sting of shame to every decent American. When a race-mad mob of morons lynches a couple of 14-year old kids, one begins to wonder if even a colored infant in its crib is immune from the perverted wrath of such sorry specimens of homo sapiens.

"The news dispatch follows the well-grooved pattern of lynchings stories we have come to expect from the benighted area which boasts a John E. Rankin as one of its representatives in Congress:

OCT 17 1942

The two boys, charged with the attempted rape of a 13-year old white girl, were taken from jail by a mob of "unidentified men," who "overpowered" the "surprised" city marshal after he answered a knock on the door.

The dispatch tells us that City Marshal Dabbs was guarding the jail alone when it was stormed by the mob. It adds, significantly, that six lynchings had previously occurred at the same bridge where the two boys were hanged.

It is hard to believe that the marshal was greatly surprised by the visit of his lynch-bent visitors. It is hard to believe that adequate protection couldn't have been given the two boys if the police authorities had wished sincerely to see justice done.

OCT 17 1942

The whole affair is a stench to the nostrils of every law-abiding citizen with a sense of fair play. Lynching is execrable under any circumstance. But when a mob deliberately drags a pair of 14-year olds from jail for a lynching bee, it hits an abysmal low in human conduct.

"Lynch-rule can't be localized. A civilized nation can't tolerate it anywhere within its border. In this great war crisis it becomes not only a humanitarian, but a political and military problem.

"Every lyncher in that party deserves a personal presentation of the Iron Cross from Herr Hitler himself. He deserves honorary membership in Der Fuehrer's Black Corps, for he has done more for the Nazi cause than a battalion of stormtroopers.

"We may be sure that the Goebbels propaganda mill is already broadcasting the incident to every corner of the world. The Nazis have always exploited lynching in America as a major propaganda weapon against us. When our scholars tear apart the Nazi race myth, the Hitlerites point to our own lynching record. When we express horror at Nazi atrocities, they throw back the taunt, "Look who's talking!"

OCT 17 1942

"Every detail of every lynching is broadcast by the Nazi radio stations to the colored peoples of the world, who represent the majority of the human population and include some of our most valuable allies. We'd only be kidding ourselves if we brushed off this type of propaganda as ineffective.

"The Mississippi child-lynching shows once more that Federal action is needed to blot out this curse. It is high time to revive and pass the anti-lynching bill introduced by Rep. Joseph A. Gavagan of New York.

"The Gavagan bill makes it a felony for any state or local peace officer to fail to use "all diligent effort" to protect any person in his custody from mob violence. It also holds localities liable to civil suits in Federal courts for lynching within their borders.

Every lyncher should be vigorously sought out and punished as a murderer, and a yellow one at that. In war-time, he is worse than a Nazi saboteur."

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
October 18, 1942

Negro Murderer Hanged By Mississippi Mob

LAUREL, Miss., Oct.. 17, (AP)—Circuit Judge F. Burkitt Collins today recalled the Jones County Grand Jury into immediate session to investigate the lynching early today of Howard Wash, 49-year-old Negro farm hand convicted in his court yesterday of the murder of Clint Welborn, farmer and dairyman, last May 18.

A few hours after the Negro was taken from the county jail by a mob of between 75 and 100 white men a widespread investigation was under way by state and county officials and reports in court circles said three or more citizens had been arrested in connection with the lynching although no formal charges had been filed.

The Negro received an automatic life sentence when the jury failed to agree upon the punishment, but sentence had not yet been pronounced when he was lynched.

Judge Collins, informed of the mob action around 2 a. m. notified Governor Paul B. Johnson at Jackson and the governor quickly dispatched two companies of Mississippi State Guards but they arrived after the lynching occurred.

The guardsmen were equipped with hand grenades and tear gas bombs and took up stations about the jail and neighborhood.

Governor Johnson also dispatched a special investigator and about ten members of the state police here.

Deputy Sheriff I. O. Fowler said armed mob members overpowered Sheriff J. Press Reddoch by grabbing him and hustling him out of the way.

The mob disarmed the sheriff and similarly overpowered another deputy before going into the jail where they took the cell keys from Jailer Luther Holder and seized the prisoner. The Negro was taken to a small bridge near the scene of his crime and hanged.

Columbia, S. C. Record
October 13, 1942

Miss. Lynching Probe Pledged

GovernorDenouncesKilling Of Two Negro Boys After Confession of Attack

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 13.—(AP)—Gov. Paul Johnson has served notice that he will do all in his power to bring to justice a group of unidentified men who lynched two Negroes early yesterday in Clarke county.

Charlie Lang and Ernest Green, both 14, of Shubuta, were taken from the Quitman jail after they had entered pleas of guilty to charges of attempted rape of a 13-year-old white girl.

"I will exert every reasonable effort to see that the violated laws of Mississippi are vindicated," said Johnson. "Such acts are spots upon the good name of Mississippi and the better class of people here condemn this wrong."

The governor said he had asked Sheriff Lloyd McNeal of Clarke county why he hadn't moved the Negroes after the guilty pleas Saturday and the sheriff replied that he had been advised by the county attorney that it would be all right to keep the Negroes in the Quitman jail.

"He said he saw no evidence of any probable lynching," Johnson continued.

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
October 12, 1942

Mississippi Mob Lynches Two Boys

MERIDIAN, Miss., Oct. 12.—(U.P.)—The lynching of two 14-year-old Negro boys was disclosed Monday when their bodies were found at a river bridge, about 35 miles south of here.

The Negroes, Charlie Lang and Ernest Green, both of Shubuta, were taken from the Quitman jail Sunday by a mob of irate, unidentified men who overpowered City Marshal G. F. Dabbs.

Lang and Green were arrested last Tuesday and accused of waylaying a 13-year-old white girl who was walking home from school. Both Negroes entered pleas of guilt to charges of attempted assault.

Columbia, S. C. Record
October 17, 1942

Negro Lynched In Mississippi

LAUREL, Miss., Oct. 17.—(AP)—Howard Wash, a Negro sentenced to life imprisonment here yesterday for the murder last May 18 of Clint Welborn, a dairyman, was taken from the jail today and lynched by a large mob.

Two companies of Mississippi state guards from Jackson arrived early today to patrol the jail and vicinity. Five other Negroes, one accused of attacking a white woman and four held on murder charges, were taken to Jackson for safekeeping.

There was no indication of further trouble.

Two 14-year-old Negro boys were hanged by a mob near Shubuta Monday after they pleaded guilty to attacking a 13-year-old white schoolgirl.

Wash's body was found after daylight hanging from a small Creek bridge known as "Welborn's Bridge" near the home of the slain man. Wash had been employed by Welborn.

Sheriff J. Press Reddoch estimated the mob at 100 men. He said he was investigating, adding that the men overpowered him and three deputies, ignoring their pleas to let the law take its course.

Mobile, Ala., Register
October 13, 1942

Two Negro Youths Lynched By Mob

Bodies Of Victims Found Swinging From Railroad Trestle In Mississippi

MERIDIAN, Miss., Oct. 12.—(AP)—Charlie Lang and Ernest Green, 14-year-old negro boys of Shubuta, were lynched by an angry mob of unidentified men here Sunday, it was learned today on discovery of their bodies swinging from a railroad river bridge, under which they attacked a white 13-year-old girl last week.

Sheriff Lloyd McNeal of Clarke County investigating reports of the absence of the youths from the Quitman jail, found their bodies suspended from the upper river bridge a mile from Shubuta, scene of six earlier lynchings.

They had been arrested last Tuesday and pleaded guilty to attempted criminal assault of the white girl at a preliminary hearing. She was waylaid as she walked home from school. They were placed in jail at Quitman. The mob apparently overpowered the jailer sometime Sunday, threw him into a cell, took his keys and proceeded with the lynching, the sheriff said.

Memphis, Tenn., Commercial Appeal
October 14, 1942

LYNCHING INCENSES MISSISSIPPI GOVERNOR

Investigator Seeks Identities Of Persons Involved

NORTHERNERS PROTEST

Johnson Urges Prosecution Of Men Who Hanged 14-Year Old Shubuta Negroes From Bridge Monday

From The Commercial Appeal Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 13.—Branding the lynching of two negro youths in Clarke County as "murder," Governor Johnson Tuesday revealed he has a special investigator making a "thorough probe of this outrageous incident."

Displaying his feelings, the Governor said, "I am in full sympathy with prosecution of the men who are responsible for these murders so that justice will be done."

Crime Investigated

"I have instructed my special investigator to stay there until he has been able to find out about this crime, and to exert every effort in seeking identity of the guilty parties."

Bodies of the 14-year-old negroes Charles Lang and Ernest Green both of Shubata, were found Monday hanging from a bridge on an abandoned highway after they were said to have confessed an attack on a 13-year-old girl. The two youths were forcibly taken from the Clarke County jail at Quitman, 25 miles south of Meridian by an unidentified mob which was said to have bound the jailer.

Governor Johnson said he had received protests from various Northern groups over the lynchings, and that "they are no more incensed over this outrageous incident than I."

Sheriff Is Blamed

The Governor said he had asked Sheriff Lloyd McNeal of Clarke County why the negroes had not been moved after they were said to have admitted the attack last Saturday, and that he had been advised that the county attorney told the sheriff it would be all right to keep them in jail at Quitman.

"The sheriff said he saw no evidence of any probable lynching," Governor Johnson said.

"But," he added, "I told him it was his duty to notify the Governor so the prisoners could be protected as has been done before."

Meanwhile, law enforcement authorities of Jones County placed Howard Cooke, negro employe of a night club near Laurel, in jail here following an attack on a woman of Waynesboro.

St. Petersburg, Fla., Times
October 18, 1942

Jury Called in Mob Lynching

LAUREL, Miss.—(AP)—Circuit Judge F. Burkitt Collins yesterday recalled the Jones county grand jury into immediate session to investigate the lynching early yesterday of Howard Wash, 49-year-old negro farm hand convicted in his court Friday of the murder of Clint Welborn, farmer and dairyman, last May 18.

A few hours after the negro was taken from the county jail by a mob of between 75 and 100 white men a widespread investigation was under way by state and county officials and reports in court circles said three or more citizens had been arrested in connection with the lynching although no formal charges had been filed.

The negro received an automatic life sentence when the jury failed to agree upon the punishment, but sentence had not yet been pronounced when he was lynched.

Judge Collins, informed of the mob action around 2 a.m. notified Governor Paul B. Johnson at Jackson and the governor quickly dispatched two companies of Mississippi state guards but they arrived after the lynching occurred.

The governor in a statement said he was doing everything within his power to apprehend the guilty persons and bring them to justice.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
October 18, 1942

MISSISSIPPI MOB LYNCHES NEGRO

Victim was Sentenced to Life Imprisonment for Slaying Dairyman

Laurel, Miss., Oct. 17. (AP)—How- and Wash, a negro sentenced to life imprisonment here yesterday the murder last May 18 of Clint Welborn, a dairyman, was taken from the jail at 1 a. m. (C. W. T.) today and lynched by a large mob of men. Two companies of Mississippi state guards from Jackson arrived early today to patrol the jail and vicinity. Five other negroes, one accused of attacking a white woman and four held on murder charges, were taken to Jackson for safekeeping. There was no indication of further trouble. Two fourteen-year-old negro boys were hanged by a mob near Shubuta Monday after they pleaded guilty to attacking a thirteen-year-old white schoolgirl. Wash's body was found after daylight hanging from a small creek bridge known as "Welborn's bridge" near the home of the slain man. Wash had been employed by Welborn. Sheriff J. Press Reddoch estimated the mob at 100 men. He said he was investigating, adding that the men overpowered him and three deputies, ignoring their pleas to let the law take its course.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Governor Johnson Deplores Miss. Youths' Lynchings, Pledges Prosecution

Youths Held In Attempted Rape Taken By Mob

OCT 16 1942

JACKSON, Miss.—Governor Paul B. Johnson promised Monday night that he would do "everything that it is in my duty in this case to see that the guilty parties are apprehended and punished", in condemning the lynching of two 14-year-old Negro boys at Shubuta, in Clarke County, Sunday.

OCT 16 1942

Governor Johnson said that he had talked to Sheriff Lloyd McNeil of Clarke County with reference to the matter and that he had been informed that the two Negro boys allegedly attempted to rape a 13-year-old white girl last week and were arrested and carried to jail at Quitman, subsequently the Governor said the sheriff related the two suspects were arraigned before a Justice of the Peace and pleaded guilty to the attempt assault upon the white girl.

The Governor said the sheriff told him that the boys were carried back to the Quitman jail from which they were taken Saturday by a mob of unidentified men and carried to the railroad bridge under which they assertedly committed the attempt assault and lynched.

"I ask the Sheriff, why he did not notify the Governor so the prisoners might have been protected, and he informed me that he did not think of it," the Chief Executive said. "The Sheriff said he had conferred with the Prosecuting Attorney of Clarke County and that official had advised him that in his opinion it was safe to leave the prisoners there." The Governor said, "The Sheriff told me that he saw no evidence of a lynching but I told him it was his duty to notify the Governor so the prisoners could be protected as had been done before."

Continuing his comments on the lynchings, Governor Johnson said: "Every man who helped lynch those Negroes is guilty of murder and I want the public to know that the Governor of Mississippi condemns the act and will exert every reasonable effort to see that the violated laws of Mississippi are vindicated. Such acts are spots upon the good name of Mississippi and the better class of people here condemn this wrong."

OCT 16 1942

"While I condemn the lynching of these Negroes, I am in favor of seeing that all such criminals are given a fair trial and if guilty, made to pay the extreme penalty. I know this would have been done in this case because the juries of Clarke County are good, law-abiding citizens, and would have seen that justice was done."

The bodies of the two 14-year-old Negro boys, Charlie Lang and Ernest Green, of Shubuta, were found hanging from the old railroad bridge spanning the Chickakaway river where they are alleged to have attempted the attack upon the 13-year-old white girl, by a searching party led by the Clarke County Sheriff Monday.

OCT 16 1942

The mob is believed to have overpowered the jailer sometime Sunday taking the two boys from the jail and lynching them by hanging them from the river bridge.

Miss. Mob Lynches 2

The Enforcer

OCT 17 1942

Quitman

Meridian, Miss.—As this paper went to press word was being awaited from special investigators dispatched to Shebuta, Miss. where two 14-year-old colored boys were taken from a jail near here and lynched by an irate mob.

OCT 17 1942

The boys had been arrested for alleged criminal assault against a 13--year-old white girl. The youths were lynched by Mississippi's mythical "unknown men."

Lynching of the boys is expected to have serious repurcussions on the minds of colored America. Mississippi is the home of Congressman Rankin, who fought every progressive measure entered into the house to curb atrocities imposed on colored Americans.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

MISSISSIPPI LYNCHING

OCT 17 1942

Southern leadership has made so much progress in recent years toward ending the evil of lynching that when news of a crime of this kind arrives it seems to come like a ghost from an earlier and darker and discreditable day. The United Press brought word this week of the discovery of the bodies of two 14-year-old Negro boys found hanging to a bridge in the town of Meridian, Miss. They had been taken from a jail, where they had been confined after confessing to an attempted attack on a 13-year-old white girl. "Unidentified men" had overpowered the local marshal.

OCT 19 1942

The crime to which these boys had confessed was atrocious, but no crime is atrocious enough to condone the savagery or to mitigate the shame of lynch law in an American community. There is no way in wartime to describe such an act except as an aid to the enemy. For we have ample reason to know that above all other things that can happen in this country a lynching is the best gift for the Nazi propaganda mill.

OCT 17 1942

Newsweek
Dayton, Ohio

Week in the Nation

LYNCHINGS: Matching the total number of lynchings for all of 1941, the 1942 total last week reached five when Mississippi mobs lynched two 14-year-old Negroes who confessed the attempted rape of a 13-year-old white girl and a few days later hanged a middle-aged Negro following his conviction for the murder of his dairyman-employer. The National Negro Council wired President Roosevelt to stop Mississippi's "reign of terror" by proclaiming martial law.

OCT 26 1942

FLOOD: After nearly 7 inches of rainfall in four days, rivers and streams in Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia swelled above flood stage and inundated towns and villages, and even threatened Washington. The torrent contaminated water supplies, destroyed property worth millions, and with a violence reminiscent of the 1936 flood in the same region accounted for fifteen dead and many missing. Waters receded after reaching a crest of 45 feet at Fredericksburg.

OCT 26 1942

STAR: Errol Flynn was freed in $1,000 bail on a charge of assaulting 17-year-old, film-struck Betty Hansen at a party given by Fred McEvoy, wealthy Olympic bobsledder. Police said the former Nebraska high-school student told them she had submitted to the movie star and three minor studio employes in order to get ahead in movies. But Los Angeles District Attorney John F. Dockweiler, overruling a grand-jury dismissal of the case, prepared to press charges of statutory rape against the four on the ground that the girl was below California's 18-year age-of-consent limit.

taken from the Quitman, Miss., jail.

OCT 22 1942

The third lynching occurred Saturday at Laurel, Miss., when a mob stormed the Jones county, Mississippi jail and removed Howard Wash, 45, after his conviction on a charge of murdering his dairyman employer. The jury had disagreed on whether Wash should have death or a life prison term, which made a life sentence mandatory.

Governor Paul B. Johnson promised full cooperation Wednesday in a Federal Bureau of Investigation inquiry into the the recent lynchings of three colored persons in southern Mississippi.

OCT 22 1942

The governor said he welcomed the investigation ordered by Attorney General Francis Biddle and added "I have done everything in my power to apprehend and punish those who violated the state laws."

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

FBI Agents To Probe Lynchings

OCT 22 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(SNS)—"Relentless prosecution will follow" if Federal Bureau of Investigation agents now probing the triple lynchings within a week in Mississippi, "develop a case," Att'y General Francis E. Biddle asserted Tuesday in ordering the investigation.

Two 14-year-old boys were hanged from a railroad bridge near Meridian on October 12. They were

37-a- 1942

MISSISSIPPI

6839

The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

TWO LADS LYNCHED!

OCT 15 1942

NOT FOR BEING JEWS IN GERMANY,
BUT FOR BEING BLACK IN MISSISSIPPI!

OCT 15 1942

37a

The lynching of two colored boys, 14 years old, in Mississippi, who had been arrested on the charge of attempted rape, adds to the deplorably long list of those who ever preach, but rarely practice, humanity! The mob, charitably, refrained from burning its victims! If the lads were guilty, they only did what white men are doing daily, but without such disastrous results. There have ever been, and will always be, good and bad people in every race. Let us not forget, there were even good and bad members, in the first family, that God created.

Dabney.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

MEMBERS OF MOB REPORTED JAILED

OCT 24 1942

BULLETIN: WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 22—It was revealed here in official circles this week that Federal Agents of the Department of Justice are in Quitman and Laurel, Miss., scenes of three lynchings last week, under orders to conduct a thorough investigation for possible federal prosecution of the members of the mob. This action followed the many pleas for action against the mobsters that came to President Roosevelt and Attorney General Biddle from prominent individuals and organizations.

OCT 24 1942

37a

LAUREL, Miss., Oct. 22—A nation-wide wave of protests have flooded the office of Governor Paul R. Johnson, President Roosevelt and the Justice Department following the third lynching in one week in Mississippi. Early last Saturday morning a mob, estimated at 100 white men, stormed the Laurel jail, overpowered five officers and lynched Howard Wash, convicted murderer of a white dairyman.

Governor Johnson immediately dispatched State Guards, ten State policemen and a special investigator to the scene of the dastardly crime for a thorough investigation and arrest of the guilty parties. According to latest advices, three or four white men are in jail without any charges being placed against them.

GOVERNOR OPPOSED TO MOB VIOLENCE

Deeply outraged over the third lynching in one week, closely following the hanging of two 14-year-old boys from a bridge by a lynch mob near Quitman, Governor Johnson at Jackson declared: "I am opposed to mob violence and will do everything in by power to see that the lynchers are prosecuted. As soon as I heard of the trouble I sent members of the highway patrol and troops of the State Guard and a personal investigator to Laurel.

OCT 24 19

"I have been advised by my investigator that three or four of the mob involved in the lynching have been apprehended and are in jail there. The troops have gone out to arrest others."

Judge F. Burkitt Collins recalled the Jones county grand jury to investigate the mob action.

FIVE OTHERS MOVED FOR SAFEKEEPING

Following the mob action, five other Negro inmates of the jail were taken to Jackson for safekeeping.

Wash was found by Sheriff J. Press Reddoch hanging from a small bridge known as Welborn's Bridge, near the home of Clint Welborn, the man whom Wash was convicted of murdering.

The mob victim had not been sentenced, but a life term became mandatory, when the trial jury failed to agree on punishment, leaving in the minds of the many a doubt whether Wash should have been convicted.

OCT 24 1942

The teen-age boys, Charles Lang and Ernest Green, were lynched last Monday and hanged from the Shubuta Bridge, famous for being the scene of four previous lynchings.

Bystander.
Des Moines, Iowa

Mississippi Breaks Record With 3 Lynchings in Week

OCT 22 1942

OCT 22 1942

Laurel, Miss.—Breaking all lynching records, the state of Mississippi has to its record, the hanging of three Negroes within a single week.

Not content with lynching two 14-year-old boys at Quitman, Miss., Monday, Oct. 12, a mob broke into the jail at Laurel here Saturday, Oct. 17, and took Howard Wash who had already been convicted by a jury and sentenced to life imprisonment.

A lynching after the "law has taken its course" was almost unheard of until the Mississippi mob gave its performance Saturday morning.

Wash was convicted Friday for the murder, May 18 of Clint Welborn, dairyman and employer of Wash. The accused man was given a trial by jury but the jury could not agree on Wash's punishment. In that case, under the Mississippi law, he faced a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment.

OCT 22 1942

Apparently incensed because the man was not sentenced to die, a mob of 100 or more went to the county jail, overpowered Sheriff J. Press Reddoch and three deputies and took Wash from their custody.

Wash's body was found hanging from a small creek bridge known as "Weyborn's bridge" near the home of the dead dairyman.

Immediately after the third lynching, two companies of state guards were sent to the jail here from Jackson to guard other prisoners in the Laurel jail. Five other Negro prisoners were taken to Jackson for safekeeping.

OCT 22 1942

37a

Negroes Refuse To Inter Boys Killed By Mob

OCT 31 1942

OCT 31 1942

By J. DON DAVIS

Informer Paper Managing Editor

SHUBUTA, Miss.—Colored citizens refused to bury the bodies of Charles Lang and Ernest Green, 14-year-old boys who were "taken" from a Quitman jail when Marshall G. F. Dabbs was "overcome" by a mob, and hanged from separate sides of the infamous bridge that crosses the Chickassawhay river two miles east of Shubuta.

Assuming an "it was your dirty work, now remove it" attitude, the fright stricken mill workers, toil tillers, and railroad employees mustered up courage to employ this attitude as their protest to the Hitlerian savagery meted out to the "illiterate innocents" for what many, including whites, say was revealed that the cause of the lynching was even less minor than that previously reported, attempted rape.

The 13-year-old white girl is said to have been en route home from school, and as she crossed the bridge where the colored boys were playing she started play with them and one of them frightened her with a frog.

When a highway patrolman was alerted the boys are said to have scampered in typical childish fashion, unsuspecting that their prank would lead to death on the bridge on which they had so often played. No action by the patrolman has been reported.

Aroused From Bed

One of the lynch victim's mother was aroused from bed on the same night by officers who came for her son. When told that the child was not dressed they are said to have told her he wouldn't need any elaborate clothing. That was the last time the mother saw her child alive.

The two boys were carried to Pachuta where a preliminary hearing was held Saturday. They were placed under $1,000 bonds. Unable to post bonds, they were carried to Quitman, where they were held in the Clarke county jail.

The jail is located immediately in the rear of the courthouse.

Marshall's Story

According to G. F Dabbs' western movie-like story, he was aroused from his home about 1 o'clock Monday morning by a man who said he was a constable from Beat 3 with a man to lock up, and he would meet him at the jail.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Shubuta Bridge's Toll Stands At Six Lynch Victims, But Span Is Doomed

NOV 7 - 1942

NOV 7 - 1942

NOV 7 - 1942

By WALTER ATKINS

SHUBUTA, Miss.—This is the story of a bridge.

It's a rickety old span with rusty girders and clattering wooden beams on a rough dirt road two miles outside this town of 756 people. Under the bridge the muddy, quiet Chickasawhay river winds its way down to the Gulf of Mexico.

To a stranger in these parts, the Shubuta bridge is no different from dozens of similar spans throughout the state.

But actually the Shubuta bridge is a monument—a monument to "Judge Lynch." It is not a toll bridge but its toll has been heavy indeed for Negroes.

Six Negroes have been lynched on the bridge since 1918.

Some place the figure at eight, counting two unborn babies—at least part white.

NOV 7 - 1942

Very few natives can remember when the bridge was built. But virtually all can remember when "Judge Lynch" set up his death court there. It was in the heydey of Mississippi's lynching era that shows a total of 101 Negroes hung, shot and burned at the stake in a score of years. Mississippi leads all other states in lynching.

Symbol of South

Shubuta bridge is a symbol of the South as much as magnolia blossoms or mint julep colonels.

It was in the year that the United States entered the war "to make the world safe for democracy" that Shubuta bridge was first christened as a monument to "white supremacy." That was October, 1918. And exactly 24 years later during another war for democracy in October, 1942, two more humans were sacrificed on the altar to "Judge Lynch."

NOV 7 - 1942

The champions of "white supremacy" in Clarke County have a feeling for the sensational and on both occasions showed it. In giving Shubuta bridge its baptism of fire in 1918, the local "Aryans" lynched four Negroes, two of them pregnant girls. Some statistically-minded people include the two unborn children, whose father was a white dentist.

NOV 7 - 1942

Twenty-four years later to the month the victims were two 14-year-old Negro youths.

Prefer Youths

The "superior" whites of Clarke County seem to prefer youths to offer as sacrifices on Shubuta bridge. Of the four lynched in 1918 the oldest was 20.

Involved were two Negro couples engaged to be married and a white dentist.

The dentist was known throughout town for his bold advances to other men's wives, both white and colored. Many husbands resented him.

The two Negro girls involved were sisters. Both looked forward to happy marriages until the white dentist made advances and forced his attentions on both of them. Both became pregnant.

Not long afterward the white dentist was found murdered.

Local authorities asked no questions but immediately arrested the two couples and charged them with murder although at least half a dozen other white men in town had motives to commit the crime.

It wasn't long before a mob gathered, "forced" the sheriff to turn over the prisoners and Shubuta bridge was christened with the blood of four victims.

Offers "Regrets"

The placid waters of the Chickasawhay river flowed quietly under the bridge for 24 years before the turbulent emotions of Clarke County were aroused again during World War II.

A 13-year-old white girl scared by the sudden appearance of two 14-year-old Negro boys on Shubuta bridge—that was the "crime" that got "Judge Lynch" two more victims. The two youths were hung from a rusty girder to again prove Southern whites are "superior" to Negroes.

NOV 7 - 1942

And the governor of Mississippi offered his "regrets" and a promise to "investigate" but . . .

"These prejudices are in-born in us," said Gov. Paul B. Johnson. "You know there's nobody down here would sit down with a Negro and eat with him at the same table. You know we'd rather die first."

Who's "Business"

The governor, boasting of the picture of Abraham Lincoln on the wall, continued:

"Our feelings toward the Negro are our own business, and certain people in the North are trying to make it their business. The President's wife, for instance. And that's bad. We're a very proud people in the South, in Mississippi, and you just make us mad that way."

So today the white people of Mississippi are proud of Shubuta bridge and mad because Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt doesn't like the way things are done on Shubuta bridge.

And Clarke County Negroes, outnumbered by whites three to two, are numb with pain inside. And they're learning to be proud too—they refused to bury their dead, Charlie Lang and Ernest Green, aged 14.

Exhume Bodies

And the people in the North are making "Judge Lynch" their business even though Gov. Johnson doesn't like it. FBI agents have come to look over Shubuta bridge and exhume the bodies of the two dead bodies for possible finger prints.

Yes, the calm waters of the Chickasawhay flow gently under the rusty old Shubuta bridge. But even some of the old timers see a flood coming, a long overdue flood that will smash and sweep away Shubuta bridge and all it stands for.

They see the flood coming from a storm brewed in Berlin—a storm that has become the business of the world, including even Clarke County, Mississippi. When slavery made in Germany became the business of the world, lynching on Shubuta bridge became the business of the world too.

So Shubuta bridge stands as yet but it is doomed as sure as Shickelgruber, (also known as Adolph Hitler).

Mob Storms Jail, Drags Two Boys, 14, to Their Death

OCT 17 1942

FBI Urged to Halt Georgia Move to Revive Klan; Bourbons Strike Back for Congress Defeat

OCT 17 1942

Washington (Special)—On the eve of Congressional action on the Anti-Poll Tax bill to "enfranchise" some 4,000,000 Negroes in eight Southern States, the South opened the first gun of its reprisal by lynching two 14-year-old colored boys on the simple prtext that they "attempted to rape a small white girl."

Announce Vigilantes

Then, following action of the House Tuesday in passing the bill, the South fired the second gun by announcing the organization of the Vigilantes, Inc. in Georgia with Public Safety Commissioner John E. Goodwin and two associates of Gov. Eugene Talmadge as incorporators. The new society is limited to "white males of sound health, good morals and high character, and its purposes are "purely eleemosynary, patriotic, social and benevolent."

In view of Governor Talmadge's record of hatred and bigotry and of stirring up class against class and race against race, reports are being circulated here that the FBI has been asked to step in immediately and investigate Vigilantes, Inc. in order to check at once any attempts to revive the "Klu Klux Klan" throughout the country.

The single hint that the new society may be designed to take over the unfinished work of the Klan and the Black Legion, was seen in the announcement that in its articles of incorporation, the officials asked that the organization "shall have the power to confer an initiative or degree ritual, fraternal and secret obligation, words, grips, signs and ceremonies," and to "establish offices and transact busines in any place within or without the state of Georgia.. Headquarters wil be in Atlanta."

OCT 17 1942

The organization, according to reports, will be a non-profit affair, and is to have control of the sale of its paraphenalia, regalia, stationery, jewelry and other materials.

OCT 17 1942

Mississippi Lynches Two

Mississippi, one of the backward state in the entire union, hung up another victory for Hitler and Tojo when on Monday a mob of its "fine white citizens" turned the community into a Roman holiday by "storming" a jail and seizing two 14-year-old boys, accused of attempting to rape a 12-year-old white girl and lynched them on the outskirts of Meridan.

A short time after the prisoners had been taken from his custody, City Marshal G. F. Dabbs went on a search and found the bodies of Charles Lang and Ernest Green, both of Shubuta, dangling from a bridge near where the girl is alleged to have been waylaid. A Federal investigation has been demanded. Meanwhile, letters and telegrams have been forwarded to the Governor of Mississippi urging him not to permit a whitewash of the investigation.

Poll Tax Fight in Senate

With the passage of the anti-Poll Tax Bill by a vote of 252 to 84, the country moved a step nearer to giving the protective ballot to millions of people in the South who are now deprived of their civil and political rights, burned at the stake, and subjected to scores of other abuses and indignities from the hands of an anti-American, un-Democratic bloc of citizens who would rather see Hitler win the war than to give Negroes the right to live like free men in the United States.

Whether or not the bill will get by teh Senate where there is unlimited debate, is a question. Dixie senators are certain to institute the filibuster, and unless strong public pressure is brought to bear on them, the measure is sure to be talked to death" before this session of Congress ends, Jan. 3, 1943.

On the Senate side, Senator Claude Pepper, sponsor of the bill will have powerful support from Senator Brooks, of Illinois and other northern and western solons.

Mitchell Makes Plea

While Reps. Joseph A. Gavagan of New York, and Raymond S. McKeough, of Illinois, led the fight for the b[illegible], perhaps the most impassioned plea of all was that made by Rep. Arthur W. Mitchell, lone Negro member who probably was making his last important speech in the present Congress.

Mr. Mitchell, who is not a candidate for reelection, charged that the "poll tax is a means and a measure" to prohibit members of my race from voting in the Southern States.

"Whenever legislation affecting the Negro and the poor people is under consideration," he told the use, "it is interesting to see how many constitutional barriers can be raised and from what section of the country."

Mr. Mitchell said further, that he was certain there would not be one-tenth of the opposition if the Negro was not involved in the bill.

"Good Enough to Die"

"If the Negro is good enough to live in this country," the Congressman thundered, "if he is good enough to wear the uniform of his country, if he is good enough to shed his blood for this country, then he is entitled to vote in peacetime as well as in wartime."

Representative Colmer of Mississippi, the state that had just shown how little it thinks of its Negro citizens by lynching two young boys, declared that the "bill's direlt object was to enfranchise the Negro in the South."

"Today," he said, "we shall see the sorry spectacle of that (Democratic) Party joining hands with the Republican Party; nay, more than that, taking the leadership in trying to pass another force bill."

He said the measure would prevent the people of the Southland from even controlling their own election laws, their own State primaries and meeting their own problems which are peculiar to that section."

Sheriff, Deputies Give Prisoner Up Without Struggle

The Informer

OCT 24 1942

By Staff Correspondence

LAUREL, Miss.—Howard Wash, 45-year-old Negro, was lynched here early Saturday morning by a mob, after the sheriff and all of his deputies had yielded the prisoner without a struggle. The jury trying Wash had been unable to agree on the punishment that should be meted out to him on the murder charge of killing Clint Wellborn, a farmer and dairyman who employed Wash.

The lynching followed by six days the lynching of two 14-year-old Negro boys at Shubuta, Sunday, October 11. Laurel is closer to Hattiesburg, where approximately 5000 Negroes are in training at Camp Shelby, than is Shubuta, where the Negro boys were lynched Sunday a week ago. Laurel is 30 miles from Hattiesburg, whereas Shubuta is 45 miles from Hattiesburg, or Camp Shelby! Laurel is probably 35 miles from Shubuta.

Officers on Notice

Chief Deputy Sheriff Lester Welch is quoted as having said after the lynching that on the previous Sunday, after the Negro boys had been lynched in Shubuta, three white men came to him and asked him for Howard Wash, prisoner. He says he refused to give the prisoner to the men at that time. But with the lynching in a town 35 miles away (at Shubuta), and with a mob having already requested Howard Wash, the sheriff's force was put on notice that there was likely to be trouble and that they should take precautions to protect the prisoner.

OCT 24 1942

According to the story told by the sheriff and his deputies, a mob of over 100 men gathered in the jail yard, while all of the officials slept peacefully and quietly in range of their voices and within the jail or in the jail quarters on the premises. Before the prisoner was given up, the sheriff was called, also the county judge.

The two deputies, who were sleeping inside the building, by some mysterious sleep-walking got outside the building where the mob could conveniently overpower them.

OCT - 4 1942

Though three men came to Deputy Welch, now nobody seems to know anybody who was in the mob. This is another interesting situation, since in small counties such as that, the sheriff and deputies usually know everybody in the county. But they were unarmed by a hundred milling men whom they saw and did not recognize a soul. The jail is a new one and is built for resisting mobs, but by the testimony of the officers themselves they left the jail and came out—evidently to join the mob.

This is the third lynching in a week in the home state of Congressman John Rankins, who has been ranting so much in Congress about the South's being able to settle the race question. Less than a week ago the congressman told the House that "we of the South know how to deal with the problem." Evidently their method is by the Ku Kluxery lynch laws of Reconstruction days.

Incidentally, Laurel is one of those pious towns that uses the strictest enforcement of the "blue laws." They rigidly enforce the liquor laws and this old 120-year-old "blue law." It is illegal to attend or operate a theatre, a baseball game, or any type of amusement on Sundays. But it is not illegal to lynch a Negro in this pious town.

OCT 24 1942

Governor Shocked

Last week when the two 14-year-old Negro boys were lynched, the governor was in sympathy with the prosecution of the unknown, guilty men. When Howard Wash was lynched, the governor had progressed to the state of being shocked. He had also belatedly sent in two detachments of the national guard and had called upon two local preachers to use their influence with the mob — all after Wash was lynched! So this lynching goes in the records with the others as being "investigated."

This is another of a series of depredations against the lives of

Arrests Rumored

OCT 24 1942

Lynchers Aid Axis, In Asia

OCT 24 1942

NEW YORK CITY.—In a telegram to Attorney General Francis Biddle asking him "to take appropriate steps to apprehend and take all possible legal action" against the lynchers of two Negro boys this week in Mississippi, Dr. George E. Haynes, executive secretary, department of race relations, Federal Council of Churches, referred to the effects of the incident on our allies in Asia and elsewhere.

In releasing the telegram Dr. Haynes said, "The lynching of those two Negro boys is but another evidence of the wave of violence against Negroes from those who are in panic because the color caste is threatening to crumble under the impact of the war.

"The act of the lynchers is surely helping the Axis. With it reported that the day following the lynching the incident was sent out over the radio by Hitler from Berlin, it is clear without a doubt that patriotic citizens of America should join in stopping these fifth columnists."

The full telegram is as follows:

"We have been outrageously shocked by the lynching of two Negro boys in Mississippi and its effects on our allies in Asia and elsewhere. Because of the national interests involved at home as well as abroad we judge you will take appropriate steps to apprehend and take all possible legal action against those guilty. Any way our organization can help please call upon us."

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Convicted Negro Slayer Lynched In Mississippi

OCT 18 1942

Laurel, Miss., Oct. 17 (AP).—Howard Wash, a Negro sentenced to life imprisonment here yesterday for the murder last May 18 of Clint Welborn, a dairyman, was taken from the jail today and lynched at 1 a. m. by a large mob of men.

Two companies of Mississippi State Guards from Jackson arrived early today to patrol the jail and vicinity. Five other Negroes, one accused of attacking a white woman and four held on murder charges, were taken to Jackson for safekeeping.

OCT 18 1942

Governor Johnson said 4 or 5 men had been arrested. Today's was the third lynching in Mississippi this week. Two 14-year-old Negro boys were hanged by a mob near Shubuta Monday after they pleaded guilty to attacking a 13-year-old white schoolgirl.

Wash's body was found after daylight hanging from a small creek bridge known as "Welborn's Bridge" near the home of the slain man.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

U. S. OPENS QUIZ OF 3 LYNCHINGS IN MISSISSIPPI

OCT 24 1942

OCT 24 1942

Washington, D. C., Oct. 23 (AP).—Attorney General Francis Biddle ordered the Federal Bureau of Investigation today to investigate the three recent lynchings in Mississippi, and declared that "relentless prosecution will follow" if a case is developed.

Two 14 year old Negro boys were hanged from a railroad bridge near Meridian on Oct. 12 after confessing an attempted attack upon a 13 year old white girl. They were taken from the Quitman, Miss., jail.

The third lynching occurred Saturday at Laurel, Miss., when a mob stormed the Jones County, Mississippi, jail and removed Howard Wash, 45, after his conviction on a charge of murdering his dairyman employer. The jury had disagreed on whether Wash should have death or a life prison term, which made a life sentence mandatory.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Victim, 45, Had Been Tried For Slaying Employer

OCT 18 1942

Seized from Jail, Hung from Bridge Eight Miles Away

LAUREL, Miss.—(SNS)—Another Negro was lyncher in Mississippi Saturday, making the third such occurence in the state in a single week.

A mob stormed the Jones county jail, seized a man convicted of murder, and hung him from a bridge about eight miles from Laurel.

The victim of the lynchers was Howard Wash, about 45 years old. He had been convicted by a jury of murder of his dairyman employer. The jury disagreed as to whether Wash should be sentenced to death or to life imprisonment.

OCT 18 1942

TWO AT MERIDIAN

Last Sunday, two 14-year-old boys were lynched about 35 miles South of Meridian, their bodies left dangling from a river bridge. The two boys, Charlie Lang and Ernest Green, both of Shubuta, were taken from the Quitman jail by a mob of blood-thirsty white men, given the customary pre-lynching treatment, and then left to die at the end of ropes in a deserted woods section. They had been arrested Tuesday of the previous week and accused of waylaying a 13-year-old white girl who was walking home from school. The boys allegedly entered pleas of guilty to charges of attempted assault.

Lynching of the teen-age boys marked the seventh time in recent years that this kind of atrocity has occured in the Shubuta locality.

The Wash lynching marked the fifth "officially" reported such atrocity this year, including the burning of Cleo Wright last January at Sikeston, Mo., and the shooting of Willie Vinson in July at Texarkana, Ark.

icago Defender
hicago, Illinois

MISSISSIPPI IS POISED FOR A NEW LYNCHING

OCT 24 1942

Governor Says Fugitive To Get Same Justice "As Other Negroes"

OCT 24 1942

JACKSON, Miss.—As a fourth lynching in less than a week threatened the state, two companies of state militia were ordered out by Gov. Paul B. Johnson for the "protection" of John A. Catchings, a fugitive, being sought by a posse of officers and deputized citizens. Catchings is accused of killing Chief Deputy Sheriff John M. Box on Sunday, Oct. 18, after Box attempted to arrest him on a liquor charge.

Probability of a fourth lynching was seen in Governor Johnson's statement to the effect that:

"I'm doing everything I can to locate that Negro murderer and to see that he is protected after capture and placed in a safe jail and given the benefit of a fair and impartial trial as would be given any other Negro charged with murder."

OCT 24 1942

LAUREL, Miss.—The third lynching in Mississippi within a week caused the detention in jail of three members of prominent white families here on Oct. 17. They were jailed as suspected members of a mob which stormed the jail early in the day, forcibly took Howard Wash, 49, from his cell and hanged him from a bridge near the home of the man he had been convicted of murdering. The mob action took place following a court trial where Wash was given a sentence of life imprisonment when a jury failed to agree on a punishment sentence for his murder of his white employer, Clint Welborn, a dairyman. Meanwhile state troops, ordered out by Gov. Paul B. Johnson, arrived here

BULLETIN

LAUREL, Miss — The Jones County grand jury called in session to investigate recent Mississippi lynchings made its final report Monday without even mentioning the slayings. The jury had previously been ordered by Circuit Judge Burkitt Collins to inquire into these lynchings and the mob slaying of Howard Wash, the latter convicted of killing his employer. The lynching of Wash had taken place only a few hours before the jurors were called to duty and had so disturbed the community that Gov. Paul Johnson called out State Guards to preserve order here.

to prevent further disturbance and to search for other members of the mob.

OCT 24 1942

Five other Negro prisoners in the jail were removed to Jackson for protection.

The two lynchings which took place early last week were of two 14-year-old boys accused by a 13-year-old white school girl of trying to attack her.

Protests against these lynchings and demands for federal investigations as well as insistence upon the passage of anti-lynch legislation have been urged by many national leaders and organizations.

The mob in the case of the latest lynching was estimated to be 100 strong . . . all armed with guns. It was reported that they overpowered the sheriff and four other officers when they stormed the jail.

37a- 1942

Mississippi

6847

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Mississippi On Another Rampage; Two 14 Year Old Boys Lynched!!

OCT 17 1942

OCT 17 1942

QUITMAN, Miss. — Although the latest lynching in this Southern community, internationally infamous for its acts of modern-day barbarism, concerns two 14-year-old boys who were being held on an unproved charge of the attempted rape of a 13-year-old white girl, little hope was expressed for the capture and prosecution of those guilty of perpetrating the crime. Hope of a Federal investigation was an even more remote possibility.

OCT 17 1942

The boys, Charles Lang and Ernest Green, were lynched Sunday by a mob estimated at 50, who kidnapped them from the Clarke County jail after allegedly overpowering the jailer.

Their bodies were left to swing across a highway bridge spanning a stream eight miles south of here and two miles north of Shubuta where the youngsters lived with their parents until their arrest last week on the unsupported complaint of the girl.

OCT 17 1942

Pedestrians walking along the bridge discovered the dead boys almost 30 hours after they had been taken from the jail.

The girl, whose name is being purposely withheld by authorities, told police she was waylaid by the boys last Tuesday while going home from school. She escaped from them, she said, and rushed to her parents with the story. Her parents informed authorities.

OCT 17 1942

Last Saturday after a preliminary arraignment in Circuit court here where they are said to have pleaded guilty, the boys were removed to the jail. They were the sole occupants, except for Marshall G. F. Dobbs, jailer in charge.

Mob members appeared at the jailhouse door around 1 a. m. Sunday morning and when Dobbs released the latch threw a blanket over his head and locked him in a cell. Dobbs said he had received a telephone call earlier that a marshall from a nearby town was coming down, so that when he heard raps he immediately opened the door. He remained in the cell block until after boys' bodies were found.

A "full investigation" has been promised by Sheriff Lloyd McNeal, but no arrests have been made or warrants sworn out, nor is there any likelihood that such legal action will take place in the opinion of residents here.

McNeal said Dobbs could not identify any of the lynchers because it was dark and the blanket was placed over his head so rapidly. As a result of the meager information an inquest hearing ended with pronouncement that the youths had died at the hands of persons unknown.

The scene of the lynching is the spot where six other lynchings have occurred during the past few years.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

2 Negro Boys Seized in Jail and Lynched

OCT 13 1942

OCT 13 1942

Quitman, Miss., Oct. 12 [Special].—The bodies of two 14 year old Negro boys were found today swinging from a highway bridge where they were hanged by a mob of about 50 men who took them out of the Clarke county jail here after overpowering the jailer.

The scene of the lynching is the place where the boys were accused of having attempted to rape a 13 year old white girl last week. It also is the scene of six other lynchings over a period of years.

Arrested at Homes.

The boys, Charles Lang and Ernest Green, were arrested at their homes near Shubuta on Tuesday several hours after the white girl reported they had waylaid her on her way home from school. She escaped them and told her parents, who reported the matter to authorities.

On Saturday the boys were taken into Circuit court for a preliminary hearing at which they pleaded guilty. They were then returned to the county jail, where they were the only occupants other than the jailer, Marshal G. F. Dobbs.

OCT 13 1942

About 1 a. m. Sunday morning a mob of men appeared at the jail. Members of the crowd previously had telephoned the marshal that officers from a nearby town would bring prisoners to the jail during the night so he readily opened the door in response to their raps.

Jailer Locked in Cell.

The moment he opened the door, the marshal said later, his visitors threw a blanket over his head. Then he was carried to a cell and locked in. He remained there more than 30 hours, not being released until his plight was discovered after the bodies had been found.

OCT 13 1942

Pedestrians walking across the bridge found the bodies this morning. The bridge spans a stream eight miles south of here and two miles north of the little town of Shubuta, near which the principals in the attempted rape live.

Sheriff Lloyd McNeal began a "full investigation," but no arrests had been made or warrants obtained. Marshal Dobbs said that because of the dark and the blanket being placed over his head so quickly, he was unable to identify any of the mob. An inquest was held and a finding returned that the boys came to their deaths at the hands of persons unknown.

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

Negro Boys Lynched For Molesting Girl

OCT 12 1942

OCT 12 1942

By the United Press.

MERIDIAN, Miss., Oct. 12.—The lynching of two 14-year-old Negro boys was disclosed today when their bodies were found at a bridge about 35 miles south of here.

The Negroes, Charlie Lang and Ernest Green, both of Shubuta, were taken from the Quitman jail yesterday by a mob of unidentified men who overpowered City Marshal G. F. Dabbs.

OCT 12 1942

Lang and Green were arrested last Tuesday and accused of waylaying a 13-year-old white girl who was walking home from school. Both pleaded guilty to charges of attempted rape.

When Marshal Dabbs answered a knock at the jail door, members of the mob threw a blanket over his head, pinned down his arms, took his keys, then locked him in the women's cell.

OCT 12 1942

Sheriff Lloyd McNeal of Clarke County, who began looking for the boys, found their bodies suspended from the bridge where the girl was waylaid.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

CHICAGO NEGRO LEADERS ANGRY ABOUT LYNCHINGS

OCT 14 1942

Call for a Strict Federal Action at Once.

37a

Negro leaders in Chicago yesterday expressed indignation over the lynching of two 14 year old colored boys Monday in Quitman, Miss. They said the crime shows the need for a federal anti-lynching law.

"If we are sincere in wanting to win this war and in our belief in the principles for which it is being fought, lynching and all other un-American practices must be stopped immediately," said A. L. Foster, executive secretary of the Chicago Urban league.

"The lynchings in Mississippi is positive proof that the southern states are either incapable or unwilling to suppress lynching. It is therefore incumbent upon the federal government to enact drastic measures to stop it."

OCT 14 1942

Field Secretary Speaks.

Mrs. Daisy Lampkin of Pittsburgh, Pa., field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who is in Chicago directing a membership drive, said:

"It is almost inconceivable to believe that a state, posing as upholding the hands of the President at the time when he was preparing a speech to the American people, would lynch two 14 year old youths. It is time that the American people, especially in the south, be brought to their senses. I am quite certain that this act will bring forcibly to the attention of congress the immediate necessity of passing an anti-lynching bill."

De Priest Cites Service Men.

Oscar De Priest, former congressman, said Americans have no right to talk about the "four freedoms" when lynch law still reigns.

OCT 14 1942

"Thousands of Negro boys now are serving their country in the armed services," he said. "They are ready to give their lives for the American principles of justice, but how can they believe in that cause when they know that, under the Stars and Stripes, a Negro often cannot get a fair trial. It is time that the good citizens of America united to halt such outrageous acts."

6847

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Mississippi Mob Hangs Two Youths, 14, from Bridge

OCT 17 1942

Pair Taken from Jail Were to Face Trial on Charge of Attacking White Girl 13

MERIDIAN, Miss. — A blood - thirsty Mississippi mob took two 14-year-old boys from the Quitman jail Sunday night and hanged them to a bridge.

The youths—Charlie Lang and Ernest Green—both of Shubuta, had been accused by a 13-year-old white girl of waylaying her and attempting to attack her on the same bridge from which they were lynched.

OCT 17 1942

According to City Marshal G. F. Dabbs, members of the mob overpowered him when he answered a knock at the door. They put a blanket over his head, pinned his arms and took his keys from him, he reported.

On Monday morning, Sheriff Lloyd McNeal of Clarke County, who was seeking the two boys, found their bodies hanging from the bridge.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

OCT 13 1942

2 NEGRO BOYS LYNCHED

Victims, 14, Accused of Attacking Girl, Hanged in Mississippi

MERIDIAN, Miss., Oct. 12 (AP) —The bodies of two 14-year-old Negroes, Charlie Lang and Ernest Green, who had pleaded guilty to waylaying a 13-year-old white girl and trying to attack her, were found hanging to a bridge today after a mob had taken them from the Quitman jail.

OCT 13 1942

The bridge from which the bodies were found hanging was the same one on which the girl had been waylaid as she walked home from school.

Lang and Green were taken from the jail after Marshal G. F. Dabbs was overpowered by unidentified men after answering a knock at the door. A blanket was thrown over the marshal's head, his arms were pinned, he was deprived of his keys and then was locked in the women's cell block.

The mob carried out the lynchings swiftly. This morning Sheriff Lloyd McNeal found the boys hanging from the bridge.

Governor Probes Lynching of Boys

OCT 14 1942 P.M. N.Y.

JACKSON, Oct. 14.—Gov. Paul B. Johnson of Mississippi says he will "exert every reasonable effort" to apprehend the lynchers of Charlies Lang and Ernest Green.

OCT 14 1942

Johnson denounced the lynchers as murderers yesterday and began his investigation by questioning Sheriff Lloyd McNeal of Clarke county, from whom the two boys were taken Monday and hanged by a mob.

McNeal told the Governor the boys were nearer 18 than 14, the age they gave when arrested last Tuesday after attempted rape of a 13-year-old girl. McNeal said they had pleaded guilty.

"The Governor of Mississippi condemns the act," said Johnson," and will exert every reasonable effort to see that the violated

OCT 14 1942

vs of Mississippi are vindicated."

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

MISSISSIPPI MOB LYNCHES A SLAYER

OCT 18 1942

Overpowers Sheriff and Takes Negro Convicted Friday to Bridge on Victim's Farm

THIRD IN STATE IN WEEK

OCT 18 1942

Governor Sends Guard to Jail at Laurel and Five Prisoners Taken to Jackson for Safety

LAUREL, Miss., Oct. 17 (AP)—Howard Wash, a Negro convicted here yesterday for the murder May 18 of Clint Welborn, a dairyman, was taken from the jail at 1 A. M. today and lynched by a large mob of men. This was the third lynching in Mississippi this week.

Two companies of State Guards from Jackson arrived early today to patrol the jail and vicinity. Five other Negroes, one accused of attacking a white woman and four held on murder charges, were taken to Jackson for safekeeping.

Wash's body was found after daylight hanging from a small creek bridge known as "Welborn's Bridge" near the home of the slain man, by whom he had been employed.

OCT 18 1942

Sheriff J. Press Reddoch estimated the mob at 100 men, who overpowered him and three deputies, ignoring their pleas to let the law take its course. Wash faced a life term, the jury in his case having been unable to agree on punishment.

In addition to the State Guard, Governor Paul B. Johnson sent ten members of the State Police and a special investigator here to aid in seeking out mob members. Reports were current that three or more citizens had been arrested, but no formal charges had been filed.

Judge F. Burkitt Collins recalled the Jones County grand jury to investigate the mob action.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

New Lynching in Mississippi; Trio Arrested

OCT 18 1942

Ask Martial Law

Washington, D. C., Oct. 17 [Special].—The National Negro council tonight telegraphed President Roosevelt, asking that he proclaim martial law in Mississippi to end the "reign of terror" in that state, where three Negroes have been lynched within a week. The council asked the President to send Federal Bureau of Investigation agents there. The council feels that Negroes, who are furnishing man power in the fight for freedom, should have the protection of free institutions. It pointed out that members of congress have promised that the states would remedy the lynch evil, but that this has not been done.

(Map on page 2.)

Laurel, Miss., Oct. 17 [Special].—Two units of the Mississippi state guard were on duty here tonight after three members of prominent families were jailed as suspected members of a mob which early today took a convicted Negro slayer from his cell in the Jones county jail and lynched him.

OCT 18 1942

The county grand jury, recalled by Circuit Judge F. Burkitt Collins to investigate the lynching, recessed until Monday after a session of several hours. It made no report.

The lynching was Mississippi's third this week. Last Sunday a mob at Shubuta, 35 miles away, hanged two 14 year old Negro boys, accused of attempting to rape a white girl.

Expect Further Arrests.

Additional arrests of suspected mob members were expected in the light of a statement by Gov. Paul B. Johnson that state troops had gone out to arrest others. The governor sent a personal investigator to assist local authorities. Troops were armed with rio guns and tear gas, and during the day they patrolled in front of the jail and courthouse.

Victim of the new lynching was Howard Wash, 49, who yesterday was convicted of the murder last May of his employer, Clint Welborn, 49, a dairyman. The jury failed to agree on Wash's punishment, thus making a life sentence mandatory.

Wash was accused of fatally injuring his employer by striking him with a milk bucket when reprimanded for arriving at work late. At his trial he pleaded self-defense, testifying that Welborn attacked him with a shovel.

OCT 18 1942

The jail was stormed about 1 a. m. today by a mob estimated at 100 men, armed with guns. Sheriff J. Press Reddoch and four other officers were overpowered. One deputy, Lester Welch, said he refused to be disarmed, threatening to shoot any one who touched him. The other officers surrendered their weapons and the key to Wash's cell.

Wash was hanged from a bridge over a creek near the slain man's home. Troops were requested immediately by Judge Collins, and the first contingent arrived at the scene shortly after the mob had dispersed.

Five other Negro prisoners, one accused of an attack on a white woman, were moved to Jackson from the Jones county jail for safekeeping.

Four Lynchings This Year.

The three lynchings bring the year's national total to four, it was said, the other being that of a Negro in Sikeston, Mo., accused of the attempted rape of a white woman.

During the whole of 1941 four Negroes were lynched in the nation, according to records of Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala. Records showed attempted lynchings were frustrated on 19 occasions by officers.

The 1941 lynchings occurred in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

37a-1942
Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Public Reveals Attitude Toward Lynch Outrage

FEB 7 - 1942 FEB 7 - 1942

Typical of the reaction of the general public to the Sikeston, Mo., outrage when Cleo Wright was burned to death on January 25 by a mob of 600 white persons are these three letters selected from hundreds received by the Chicago Defender:

"Remember Sikeston"

On the twenty-sixth day of January, 1942, news came to us of one of the most inhuman things that could possibly happen: the shooting, dragging and burning of the body of Cleo Wright in Sikeston, Mo.

FEB 7 - 1942

First, I must say there is little doubt in my mind that the newspapers ever actually printed the whole truth as it was. They only printed the side of the story that was presented to them by the mob Therefore, that side was only as the mob would like to have the public believe.

We people of Southern Illinois and Southeast Missouri know what actually happened. As in almost all such cases, she was Mr. Wright's secret lover, but rather than be caught she screamed for help. The story goes from here almost as told in the big daily papers.

FEB 7 - 1942

I think the colored people of these United States of America should have the pleasure of seeing this sort of mob violence erased from the pages of the history of these United States. And until such is done and those cowardly, treacherous officials who so frankly say they are unable to identify any members of the mob are brought to their knees and made to pay the penalty for their treacherous lies and yellow hearts and made to tell who actually took part in the mobbing, the Negro of these United States will always hold within his heart the treacherous inhuman act committed against him at Sikeston, Mo.

FEB 7 - 1942

The first line of defense now extends into the bloody heart of that community of eight thousand people. The start to stop this sort of treachery should be made there and now.

And to the battle slogan, "Remember Pearl Harbor," I say add our own cry for the things we hold dear and for the revenge that will eventually be ours. I say, "Remember Sikeston, Mo."

Truly,
James Wilson, Jr.
Mound City, Ill.

"Woman Guilty"

According to an item in the paper, a member of our race was disgracefully lynched Sunday morning, Jan. 25 in Sikeston, Mo. It seems to me, in times like these, doubly horrible that in a country at war, an army sergeant's wife should be the cause of such a crime; and that the sergeant himself should be such a traitor to the democracy he is supposed to be defending, to allow such a debacle to occur.

A man, already shot three times by a patrolman, according to the report, was lynched and incidentally, a man who may have been eligible to serve his country. It would be well for southern white women to realize that a DECENT, VIRTUOUS woman would never allow a fellow human being to be mutilated and burned up for "ATTEMPTING TO RAPE HER." If she was not touched, where was harm done? That woman is guilty of murder just as surely as if she had done the lynching herself—alone.

I think we should coin the phrase "Remember Sikeston, Mo.," in demanding passage of the anti-lynching bill.

Ann H. Brown
1321 W. 108th St.
Chicago, Ill.

FEB 7 - 1942

"The Shame Of It All"

The lynching and burning of a defenseless colored man in Sikeston, Mo., certainly doesn't speak very well for democracy. Another black mark has been chalked up against the United States.

The very thing that America is now fighting against exists right here in her own back yard. Some of her people—the colored men and women throughout the country—aren't safe from a band of barbaric fiends who go around at will murdering defenseless men of color. Something should be done to stop this uncalled for disgrace. How does the United States expect to win a war when she permits such going on? Why should we go on the battlefield to fight for democracy when every right and human protection is denied us? The shame of it all!

If lynching and burning of human beings continue to exist, we should tear down our jails, discharge our sheriffs, jailers and policemen. We should burn up our law books and destroy the Constitution and go back to the uncivilized days.

They say that the dead man confessed. But did he confess? We will never know. Whether he confessed or not, he had the right, by law to be protected and treated as a man and not as a wild beast.

There is supposed to be a shortage of gasoline. Yet, there seems to be plenty of gasoline on hand when it can be used to pour on a human body for a bonfire.

Broadminded men and women, can you tell me what should be done in a case like this? Can you tell me what I, who am drafted and expecting to be called for the army will be fighting for? Will we be fighting to encourage lynching and burning of Negroes? Whatever it will be, I am sure it can't be for justice, nor can it be for democracy because the case of Wright of Sikeston, Mo., proves that.

Albert R. Jackson
6148 South Parkway
Chicago, Ill.

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

Asks President To Form Negro Fair Play Body

FEB 13 1942

CHICAGO—To the end of meeting racial military riots (such as Ft. Bragg and Alexandria, La. soldier slayings), widespread discriminations against Negro workers and horrible lynching of Cleo Wright at Sikeston, Mo., A Phillip Randolph, International President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters has asked that President Roosevelt set up a small representative Negro Citizens Committee, which is non-paid. The committee would advise and consult on matters concerning integration and equal participation of Negroes in war industries, the armed forces, including the Navy, Air Corps, Marine, Army and the various war agencies and departments of the Government, and on matters of legislation and executive orders that may make for the safeguarding of the Negro's constitutional rights so as to give them a feeling that they have something to fight for in the present war.

FEB 14 1942

SIKESTON WHITES REFUSE TO TESTIFY AGAINST MOBSTERS

FEB 21 1942 FEB 21 1942

Pittsburg Courier

Pittsburg Penn

FEB 21 1942

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 19.—White citizens in Sikeston will not testify against each other in any prosecution for guilt in the lynching of Cleo Wright there Jan. 25 and they use the threat of a race riot to prevent further investigation and publicity.

These facts came out in an investigation for and report to the NAACP made last week by Mr. and Mrs. L. Benoist Tompkins of this city who spent 24 hours in Sikeston four days after the lynching, questioning leading whites in the community and leading Negroes in Sunset Addition, the Negro ghetto.

FEB 21 1942

MOB WAS "JUST FOLKS"

The make-up of the mob was described as being "'just folks . . not like our last lynching . . done by the upper classes." Southeast Missouri's last lynching was in Mississippi County, December 18, 1924, when a mob stormed the jail and took out a Negro accused of raping a white girl.

Fear of Negroes, the need to "keep the Negro in his place" and the feudal nature of southeast Missouri, where a very few people own all the land and the rest are vassals, are behind the story of the brutal lynching, the Tompkinses reported.

FEB 21 1942

The investigators said: "We were given the definite impression that the lynchers would not be ostracized by the community; on the other hand those who might testify against the lynchers would be ostracized. Even the most liberal man to whom we spoke said that had he witnessed the crime he would 'not be inclined to testify'."

Negroes themselves are afraid to identify any of the mob even though they saw the entire proceedings and know those responsible.

Ft. Mills, S. C., Times
January 29 1942

Negro Lynched In Missouri

A critically wounded negro, suspected of attacking a white woman, was taken from the city jail at Sikeston, Mo., Sunday by a mob of more than 300, which dragged him through the negro district and then set the body afire.

Harold Wallace, assistant chief of police, identified the mob victim as Cleo Wright, 30-year-old cotton oil worker.

He said Wright admitted he had stabbed and critically wounded the wife of an army sergeant and after his capture had stabbed Hess Perrigan, a patrolman. In turn Perrigan shot Wright three times.

Arg
St. Louis, Missouri

The Barbarism and Savagery of Mob Law

FEB 27 1942



A horrible and gruesome picture of the charred remains of Cleo Wright just after he had been burned by a lynch mob in Sikeston, Mo. January 25. The seared and baked flesh, broken open in places, are visible in the picture. The feet of a school girl spectator can be seen. The picture was snapped by an amateur photographer and brought to the St. Louis Argus. The Scott County Circuit Court will convene at Benton, Mo., Monday with a prospective grand jury investigation of the lynching. Circuit Judge McDowell may leave the selection of the 12 men up to the County Court or Sheriff.

country at war to defend our democratic way of life throughout the world, lynching has significance far beyond the community, or even the state in which it occurs. It becomes a matter of national importance, and thus properly the concern of the Federal Government."

It will be the first time that a Federal Grand Jury has held an investigation of a lynching.

6829

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

GRAND JURY HEARS 30 IN LYNCHING INQUIRY

MAR 10 1942

Probe Of Negro's Death Opens At Sikeston, Mo.

BENTON, Mo., March 9.—AP)—After hearing testimony of 30 witnesses, a special Scott County Grand Jury called to investigate the lynching of Cleo Wright, negro former convict, at Sikeston, Mo., recessed Monday night.

Among the witnesses were Sikeston Policeman Hess Perrigan, who was knifed by Wright as the negro resisted arrest; Sergt. Melvin Dace of the Missouri Highway Patrol who was at the scene of the lynching, and an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Cape Girardeau.

MAR 10 1942

Scott County Prosecutor David E. Blanton requested the special jury after he said names of alleged mob leaders and other valuable information had been obtained since the lynching last Jan. 23.

Wright, suspected of attempted rape of a wife of an Army sergeant, was dragged from a detention cell of the Sikeston City Hall by a mob of several hundred persons. He had been wounded in an attack on Perrigan. His body was dragged through the negro district before a torch was applied to his gasoline-soaked body.

MAR 10 1942

Mrs. Dillard Burgeon suffered serious knife wounds in resisting the alleged assault but recovered.

R. H. Mackley of Blodgett, a merchant-farmer, was elected foreman of the jury.

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

STRIKES AT MOB VIOLENCE

Grand Jury Trial To Be May 13

A legal case that promises to take rank with the Historical Dred Scott trial is expected to be enacted in close proximity of the site of that trial May 13, when a Federal grand jury will begin an investigation of the lynching of Cleo Wright of Sikeston, Mo., Jan. 25. The importance of the decision will be far-reaching, for it may determine that an anti-lynching bill is not necessary to receive an indictment in a mob case.

Living up to his promise to deal with the case thoroughly, U. S. Attorney General Francis Biddle Saturday announced the setting of the probe and the appointment of Jasob M. Lashly, former president of the American Bar Association, as Special Assistant to the Attorney General in the inquiry.

APR 17 1942

Vital To Country

Because of the travesty on justice in which the Scott County Grand Jury of Missouri closed the case after a one day inquiry without an indictment on the ground of insufficient evidence, the U. S. Attorney General sought to carry the case through to a conclusion. He stated: "With our

37a-1942

Age-Herald

Birmingham, Ala.

3-7-36

6830

MISSOURI MOB LYNCHES NEGRO

JAN 26 1942

Sikeston Man Stabs Two Persons Before Being Placed In Jail

SIKESTON, Mo., Jan. 25—(AP)—A critically wounded Negro, suspected of the attempted criminal assult on a white woman, was taken from the city jail Sunday by a mob of more than 300, which dragged him through the Negro district and then set the body afire.

Harold Wallace, assistant chief of police, identified the mob victim as Cleo Wright, 30-year-old cotton oil worker.

JAN 26 1942

He said Wright admitted he had stabbed and critically wounded Mrs. Dillard Sturgeon, 29, wife of an army sergeant and after his capture had stabbed Hess Perrigan, a patrolman. In turn Perrigan shot Wright three times.

Several hours after the Negro had been placed in the detention room of the city jail, the mob began gathering. At 11:30 a.m. they forced the front doors of the city jail and grabbed their victim.

David E. Blanton, Scott County prosecutor, attempted to reason with the crowd, but he was thrust aside.

Wright offered no resistance and said nothing. He was stuffed into the trunk compartment of a motor car and taken to the Negro district where he was dragged through the streets behind an automobile. Later the body was cut loose and gasoline applied.

I. A. Myers, a newspaperman, estimated that about 300 persons watched the burning of the body.

Wallace told this story of events leading up to the mob action:

About 1:30 a.m. a man entered the Sturgeon home, occupied by Mrs. Sturgeon and her sister-in-law, Mrs. John Sturgeon, also the wife of a soldier.

JAN 26 1942

Mrs. John Sturgeon escaped, but the intruder grabbed Mrs. Dillard and Sturgeon and stabbed her, inflicting a deep wound in the left side.

After a chase across the town, Officer Perrigan captured Wright, disarmed him of a knife and put him in the back seat of his motor car.

JAN 26 1942

The officer, apparently having obtained a driver for the machine, joined his captive in the back seat. Wright pulled another knife from his shoe and began hacking at the officer's face, severing an artery under his tongue. In the struggle Perrigan drew his revolved and shot Wright three times.

Telegraph

Macon, Georgia

Missouri Mob Burns Lynch Victim's Body

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JAN 26 1942

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OVERRIDE PROSECUTOR

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JAN 26 1942

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JAN 26 1942

CAPTURED BY OFFICER

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The officer, apparently having obtained a driver for the machine joined his captive in the back seat. Wright pulled another knife from his shoe and began hacking at the officer's face, severing an artery under his tongue. In the struggle Perrigan drew his revolver and shot Wright three times.

The southeast Missouri office of the state highway patrol concentrated 16 of its 22 patrolmen here tonight.

They were patroling the Negro section in the western outskirts of this city of 8,000. Approximately one-fourth of the population is Negro.

JAN 26 1942

American Legion members guarded streets leading into the area.

Negroes were ordered to remain indoors. White persons were prevented from entering.

At dusk there was no apparent indication of further trouble.

The Sikeston Red Cross collected $150 so Sergeant Dillard Sturgeon, stationed in California, might return to his wife.

A city truck removed the Negro's body after it had been in the street several hours.

Commercial Appeal

Memphis, Tennessee

JAIL-STORMING MOB BURNS NEGRO KNIFER

JAN 26 1942

Army Man's Wife And Policeman Attacked—Officer Wounds Marauder

370

BY PAUL R. BUMBARGER
Special to The Commercial Appeal

SIKESTON, Mo., Jan. 25.—Snatched from a detention room in the City Hall, a 30 year old negro was lynched here Sunday morning after a mob of 500, angered by overnight violence in which a Sikeston matron and night policeman were stabbed, stormed the historic structure in the heart of the business district.

Ignoring pleas that they refrain from bloodshed, the men, some roughly dressed and others in their Sabbath best, shoved into two entrances of the building and quickly emerged with Cleo Wright, the negro who had been thrice wounded by police fire and who was reported by an officer to have admitted the dual knifing.

Transfusion For Victim

Victims of stab wounds were Mrs. J. D. Sturgeon, 29-year-old wife of an Army sergeant who is stationed on the West Coast, and Night Policeman Hess Perrigan, 37, who joined the force here only last April.

JAN 26 1942

Mrs. Sturgeon's condition was described by her physician as critical. She suffered a wound in the left side. Her doctor said that she had undergone one transfusion and that two more would be administered. Her fingers also were cut in an attempt to grab the knife.

Perrigan was seriously hurt but no fear was expressed for his recovery. He was cut on the side of the face.

Gather at Daybreak

Clusters of men gathered beneath the graceful, high columns of the City Hall, erected in 1909, shortly after daybreak Sunday morning, chatting grimly about the overnight violence.

Slowly the throng gained in numbers, with a few women in cars at its outer fringes. The buzz of voices became increasingly audible and then at 11:30 a.m., groups of men smashed through the front entrance and a side door of the building simultaneously. Through the front doors, down the steps and off the curb the negro's body, nude except for a loin cloth, bounced, tugged by his feet.

JAN 26 1942

The negro was jammed into the trunk compartment of a car but later removed, an ankle hooked into a rear bumper and he was dragged through Sunset Addition, a section occupied by negroes, near the western outskirts of the city.

Doused With Gasoline

The negro then was removed, his apparently lifeless and scarred form was doused with gasoline and a match flipped onto the body. It was several minutes before the flames subsided and late Sunday afternoon the charred body still lay in plain view of hundreds of the curious who drove by.

Chief of Police Walter Kendall and three members of the State Patrol stationed here tried futilely to block entrances to the City Hall and Prosecuting Attorney David E. Blanton stepped from the front entrance to admonish the crowd to "scatter out." The prosecuting attorney's appeal seemed only to inflame the crowd, who chorused a series of boos and, as the entrances were crashed, voiced a resounding cheer.

Watching the crowd from across the street were approximately 25 flying cadets stationed at the Air Corps Training Detachment here.

Dr. E. J. Nienstedt, who treated the negro's wounds, said that his condition at 5 a.m. was critical and that he had only an outside chance to recover.

Admitted Stabbing

Assistant Chief of Police Harold Wallace, who questioned the negro, reported that he admitted stabbing the woman and the officer and entering the home intending to rape the woman. The negro, a cotton oil mill plant worker, first was taken to his home, in Sunset Addition in an ambulance, Wallace said, but later was returned to the City Hall because it was feared that he wouldn't be safe there.

It was at 1:30 a.m. this morning, that a negro broke into the small home, occupied by Mrs. J. D. Sturgeon, her son, Jimmy, 8; and Mrs. Sturgeon's sister-in-law, Mrs. John Sturgeon. The women's husbands are away from the city, serving in the Army.

At Sikeston General Hospital, Mrs. John Sturgeon gave this account of the circumstances:

"Something awakened my sister-in-law, Grace, at 1 a.m. She heard a noise at the back door. A half hour later, I heard a rustle, and looked up to see Grace sitting up in bed. I thought that she had had a nightmare, but my gaze was directed to a nearby window where I saw a negro man standing.

Called Police

"'Shut your mouth or I'll kill you,' he said. I thought about getting the shotgun, which was on the opposite side of the window from the bed where Grace and I were sleeping, but I remembered that we had feared to load the gun thinking some of the children might hurt themselves. So, I ran from the bedroom into the living room and called police. Grace followed me and the negro dashed through the window and grabbed her near the front door.

"I ran across the street to get Mr. Davenport (H. D. Davenport, a neighbor). The negro stabbed Grace near the front door and ran out of the window which he had entered, when Mr. Davenport and I returned."

Davenport said that when he was summoned to the scene, he grabbed up a "corn knife," and that he saw two men running away from the house. Mrs. John Sturgeon said that only one man had entered and Assistant Chief Wallace quoted Wright as saying that he alone was responsible for the stabbing.

Saw Two Loiterers

Another neighbor, W. A. Sturgeon, said he had seen two men loitering near his home on three occasions last night and that once when he stepped to the porch, one of them, in fleeing, tripped over a tricycle.

Less than an hour after the stabbing at the Sturgeon home, Policeman Perrigan was knifed by Wright after he had arrested the negro near the western edge of town in front of the Jefferson Hotel, located near the Frisco Railroad tracks, and in the direction of the negro section of town from the Sturgeon home.

What happened to Perrigan was pieced together this morning when by use of pencil and paper and by sign language he told of Saturday night's incident to Officer Wallace and this writer. The night policeman's wounds prevented his oral narration of the events.

Negro Pulled Dagger

After searching the negro and removing one knife, Perrigan engaged a young man whose identity was not known to him, to drive the police car to the City Hall, getting in the back seat with his prisoner. The negro, he indicated, pulled a dagger with a four-inch blade from one shoe and stabbed him. The officer opened fire.

Perrigan indicated that he hit the negro over the head with his gun and that he would have emptied his firearm but for a choking sensation and his own weakness after being wounded.

For hours the negro's body lay in the dusty street but at length it was taken away by a city truck and returned to the City Hall where an inquest was to be held.

City authorities appealed for aid in patrolling Sunset Addition as a precautionary measure and in response approximately 15 peace officers from neighboring cities came to Sikeston. There were reports that some negroes were leaving the city until the excitement blows over but others walked through the streets unconcerned.

Chicago Bee.
Chicago, Illinois

300 LYNCH LONE NEGRO; BURN BODY IN STREET

Governor Donnell Orders Sweeping Investigation Of Crime

SIKESTON, Mo., Jan. 29—The city jail here was broken into Sunday by a mob of 300 and a Negro accused of attempting to rape a white woman removed and lynched. The alleged rapist was dragged 10 blocks through the streets behind an automobile until he was dead and then burned in the street in the Negro section.

Late Sunday night, Gov. Forrest C. Donnell, in Jefferson City ordered an immediate "searching and thorough investigation" and indictment of every person "who had any part, great or small, in this mob violence." The governor's move was in concurrence with a suggestion made by Scott County Prosecuting Atty. David Blanton that a grand jury be called to investigate the case.

Patrolling the Negro district following the mob action were 16 state highway policemen and American Legion members. Colored citizens were ordered to remain indoors and white persons were prevented from entering the section. Approximately 2000 Negroes live in the area.

According to police, the lynching victim, 30-year-old Cleo Wright, a cotton oil mill worker, admitted breaking into the home of Mrs. Grace Sturgeon, 29, shortly after midnight and stabbing her when she fought off his attempts to rape her. The wife of Sgt. Dillard Sturgeon, member of the Missouri National guard called into federal service, Mrs. Sturgeon was reported near death in Sikeston general hospital. Witnessing the attack was Mrs. Sturgeon's son, James, 8, and her sister-in-law, Mr. John Sturgeon, with whom she lives.

FEB 1 19

Arrested on Suspicion

Wright was arrested on suspicion by Policeman Hess Perrigan after the attack, when he was discovered walking through the Negro section with a bloody knife in his pocket. While being taken to police headquarters Wright is alleged to have drawn another knife and slashed Perrigan across the face and neck. Perrigan, sitting beside Wright in the police car, fired three shots, wounding the man. Both were taken to the hospital, where Wright received emergency treatment. Wright was removed to the city jail when a mob gathered outside the hospital. The mob broke up but formed again outside the jail.

Chief of Police Walter Kendall and Atty. Blanton were said to have pleaded with the mob to disperse. However, the two were pushed aside and the mob forced the two jail doors open and dragged Wright outside.

Dragged Thru Streets

Unresistingly he was thrown into the trunk of an automobile and taken to the Negro district. Here he was tied behind the car and dragged through the streets. Ascertaining that he was dead, the mob then poured gasoline over his body and set it afire in the center of the street. The body remained there several hours and was then removed by a city truck.

Mrs. Sturgeon, an employe of a shoe factory, was stabbed several times in the abdomen and her hands were cut. She was given three blood transfusions.

According to the sister-in-law, the asasilant apparently had watched their home for sometime. She stated he smashed the glass in the kitchen door, but failing in his attempt to enter that way, broke a window and climbed through.

FEB 1

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Identify Ten Members Of Missouri Lynching Mob

FEB 7 - 1942

SIKESTON, Mo.—Citizens of both races having asked for an accounting of the Cleo Wright lynching here on January 25 have succeeded in arousing the interest of the nation and action on the part of Missouri state officials.

Latest Developments

(1)—Approximately 10 leaders of the 600-strong mob which burned Cleo Wright to death have been identified through investigations directed by David E. Blanton, Scott county prosecuting attorney. Blanton conducted the investigation upon orders from Gov. Forrest C. Donnell.

(2)—It has been revealed that the jail where Wright was confined was entirely unguarded while the mob milled through the halls and shouted that they wanted to "get out guns and burn down Niggertown." This was reported by State Highway Patrol Sergeant Melvin Dace who was away from duty, reporterly warning Negro citizens to stay in their homes in anticipation of further violence.

FEB 7 1942

The Story

Cleo Wright, 30 years old, was arrested on suspicion because some Negro man had reportedly attempted to rape a white woman, the wife of an army sergeant away at duty. He was said to have cut and stabbed the woman with a knife which was later found on him . . . bloody, according to report.

When arrested, Wright is supposed to have resisted police officers. He is also supposed to have assaulted one of the patrolmen with a knife. In turn he is supposed to have been shot three times. Wright was taken to his own "shack" for emergency treatment because he, as a Negro, could not receive treatment at any city hospital. From there he was taken to the women's section of the city jail.

Outside the shack there was gathered a portion of the final mob. For some reason, not yet divulged, the mob dispersed and gathered later outside the jail. Later the mob seized Wright and dragged him through the Negro and white sections of the city with his knees hooked and tied to the rear bumper of an automobile.

FEB 7 - 1942

Cleo Wright was later burned to death by flames from ignited gasoline. The lynching took place on the Negro school grounds. Mrs. Grace Sturgeon, the white woman, had been taken to a hospital. Testimony, as given later by her young son and sister-in-law, led to the belief that Wright had attacked Mrs. Sturgeon after viewing the house where his "victim" lived.

The mob of white "citizens" had been incited . . . and soil

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

MORE MOB VIOLENCE HINTED AT SIKESTON

JAN 27 1942

Negroes Uneasy After Lynching Of Cleo Wright

INVESTIGATION PROMISED

Mrs. Sturgeon And Officer Attacked Are Reported Better —Mayor Believes The Situation 'Well In Hand'

JAN 27 1942

Special to The Commercial Appeal

SIKESTON, Mo., Jan. 26. — A thorough investigation of mob violence here Sunday which cost the life of Cleo D. Wright, 30-year-old negro, was promised by county authorities Monday as murmurings of possible future violence kept Sikeston's negro residential district uneasy.

Prosecuting Attorney David E. Blanton, who talked by long distance telephone Sunday night with Gov. Forrest Donnell in Jefferson City, said Monday:

"We feel that we can better serve the public by making a vigorous investigation to find out exactly what happened and turn the information over to a grand jury."

Agree On Procedure

He said that he and Coroner Clyde Poe of Oran, who held an inquest unnecessary and left the cause of the negro's death open, were in agreement on procedure. Circuit Judge J. C. McDowell of Charleston, he said, was ready to call the grand jury when "we are ready."

JAN 27 1942

"I am much interested in finding out who the leaders were, but so far I have made little headway," he said.

Blanton paid high tribute to the state patrol, which, he said, did a "grand job."

"Had it not been for their efforts, the situation could very easily have exploded into a race riot," he said.

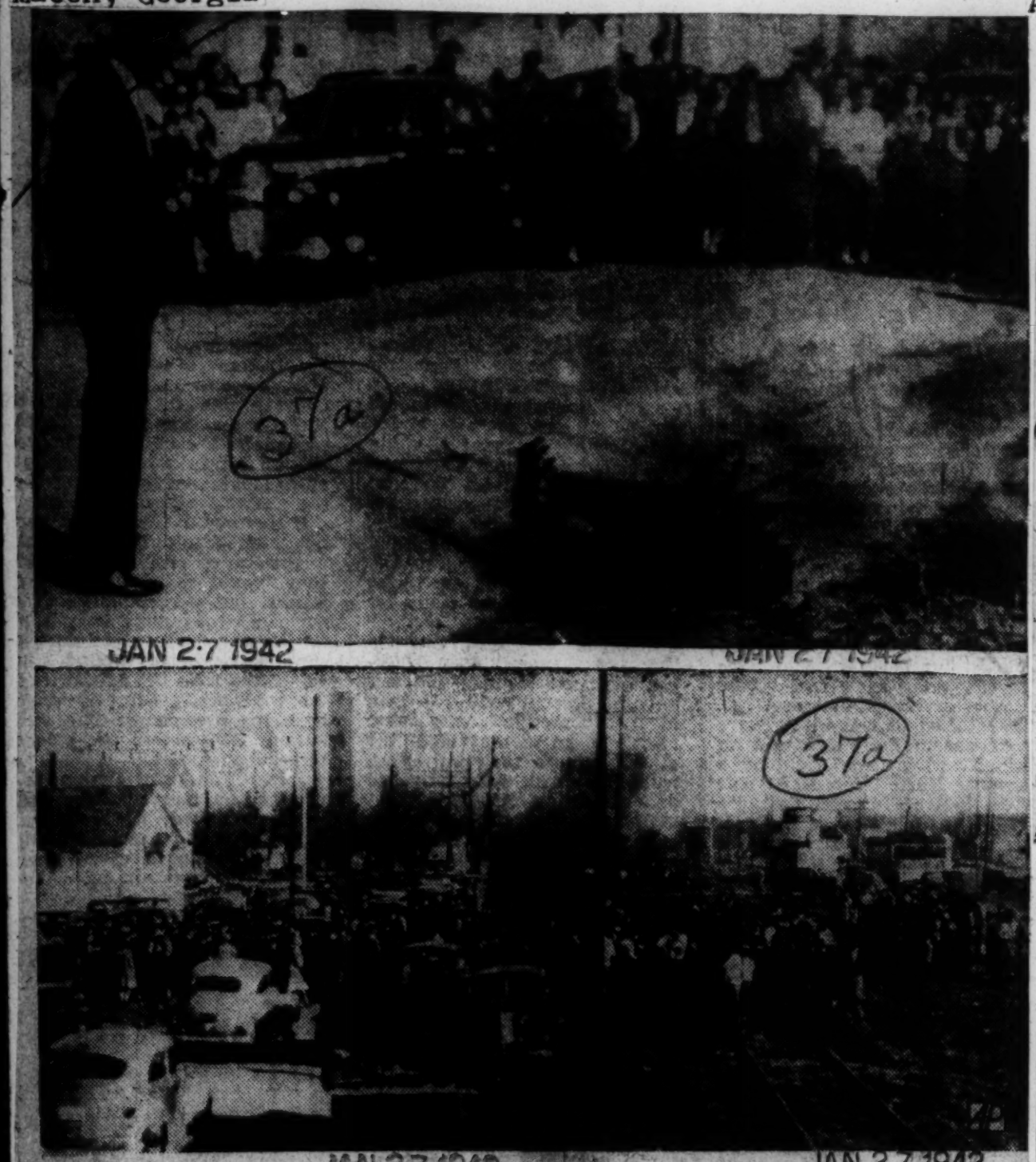
There were conflicting reports about the situation in Sunset Addition, negro section where Wright's event that Mrs. J. D. Sturgeon, 29, a knife attack attributed to Wright, should die. by officers to W

Rev. S. D. Woods, a negro Bap

37a-1942

6832

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia



JAN 27 1942

JAN 27 1942

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JAN 27 1942

JAN 27 1942

Negro Dragged Through Streets and Burned by Missouri Mob

IN THE FOREGROUND (top) lies the charred body of Cleo Wright, a Negro suspected of attempting to rape a white woman, who was dragged through the streets and burned by a mob at Sikeston, Mo. The infuriated crowd broke into the city jail and removed him. Bottom: Smoke rises from the burning body as the crowd stands watching.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Patrol Car Led Lynching Parade

JAN 30 1942

SIKESTON, Mo. — (SNS) — A State Highway Patrol car driven by a member of the State Patrol was used to drag the bullet-riddled body of Cleo Wright, 25-year-old lynch victim, three miles through this community's streets to a Negro church where it was burned, members of the special Scott County grand jury were told here Thursday.

The jury called by Prosecuting Attorney David Blanton, upon the insistence of Governor Forrest C. Donnell that a "searching and thorough investigation" be made of the Sunday lynching, began its probe Thursday morning after being sworn in.

The witnesses, whose names were not divulged, described in detail how Wright's body was tied by the right leg to the patrol car. The burning of the body formed America's first lynching [illegible] 1942

JAN 30 1942

STABBED WOMAN

Wright had been accused in the stabbing of Mrs. J. D. Sturgeon, white, wife of an army sergeant, and the subsequent stabbing of Night Patrolman Hess Perrigan, who apprehended Wright in the Negro neighborhood early Sunday morning.

Appearing as a witness at the opening of the hearing was the mob victim's 18-year-old widow, Mrs. Ardella Wright, an expectant mother. JAN 30 1942

She said that her husband, after being shot three times by Patrolman Hess, was taken to the Sikeston hospital where he was given emergency treatment, then removed to his home in a serious condition. His condition became so critical, his widow testified, she asked that he be moved back to the hospital. JAN 30 19[illegible]

Instead, she said, he was taken to the City Hall, where he was placed in a wash room on the women's side of the building. Police later explained that Wright was placed in the women's room because there were mattresses on the cots. JAN 30 1942

BURNED AT CHURCH

Wright's body was jammed into the trunk compartment of a car, but later removed, the right ankle hooked to the rear bumber of the state patrol car by putting the foot so it would hold to the body of the car and the body dragged from the center of the town to Sunset, the Negro section on the west side of town.

Wright was burned, the grand jury was told, in view of Smith's Chapel AME church, pastored by the Rev. J. D. Ross, and the Negro school. During the ghoul-like mob action, the Rev. Mr. Ross told his congregation to remain seated and calm. Later, however, some of the members went to the windows and witnessed the burning. JAN 30 1942

"N—grs, git back in the house, or you'll get what he got." Negroes of Sikeston attracted by the clamor of the mob were told.

Among other cars said to be in the lynch-parade was that of the white ambulance, the property of Harry Albritton, who had carried Wright to and from his home to the hospital.

Meeting in a hasty special session the Sikeston City Council decided along with Coroner Clyde Foe and Prosecuting Attorney Blanton that no inquest was necessary in the death of the mob victim whose smoking body remained along the side of the railroad tracks for about four hours Sunday before the city had a truck to remove the body and bury it without ceremony in a nearby town, McMullin. JAN 30 1942

VERDICT LEFT OPEN.

Attorney Blanton made this statement to the reporter, "We feel that we can better serve the public by making a vigorous investigation to find out exactly what happened and turn the information over to a grand jury. Coroner Poe left the cause of the death open pending the probe.

Sergeant Melvin Dace said that the Highway Patrol had in its possession letters written by Cleo Wright to a white woman in Sikeston, but would not divulge the woman's name.

Wright was a cotton oil mill worker and had lived in Sikeston about three years. He had been married two and one-half years. He is survived by his mother and father who reside in Arkansas.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Missouri Governor Orders Investigation Of Lynching

JAN 28 1942

SIKESTON, Mo.—(A. N. P)—The city jail here was broken into Sunday by a mob of 300 and a Negro accused of attempting to attack a white woman removed and lynched. The alleged rapist was dragged 10 blocks through the streets behind an automobile until he was dead and then burned in the street in the Negro section.

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JAN 28 1942

Patrolling the Negro district following the mob action were 16 state highway policemen and American Legion members. Colored citizens were ordered to remain indoors and white persons were prevented from entering the section. Approximately 200 Negroes live in the area.

CRIME ADMISSION CLAIMED

JAN 28 1942

According to police, the lynching victim, 30-year-old Cleo Wright a cotton oil mill worker, admitted breaking into the home of Mrs. Grace Sturgeon, 29, shortly after midnight and stabbing her when she fought off his attempts to attack her. The wife of Sgt. Dillard Sturgeon, member of Missouri National guard called into federal service, Mrs. Sturgeon was reported near death in Sikeston General Hospital. Witnessing the attack were Mrs. Sturgeon's son, James, 8, and her sister-in-law, Mrs. John Sturgeon, with whom she lives.

Wright was arrested on suspicion by Policeman Hess Perrigan after the attack, when he was discovered walking through the Negro division with a bloody knife in his pocket. While being taken to police headquarters, Wright is alleged to have drawn another knife and slashed Perrigan across the face and neck. Perrigan, sitting beside Wright in the police car, fired three shots, wounding the man. Both were taken to the hospital, where Wright received emergency treatment. Wright was removed to the city jail when a mob gathered outside the hospital. The mob broke up but formed again outside the jail.

Chief of Police Walter Kendall and Atty. Blanton were said to have pleaded with the mob to disperse. However, the two were pushed aside and the mob forced the two jail doors open and dragged Wright outside.

JAN 28 1942

BURNED IN STREET

Unresistingly he was thrown into the trunk of an automobile and taken to the Negro district. Here he was tied behind the car and dragged through the streets. Ascertaining that he was dead, the mob then poured gasoline over his body and set it on fire in the center of the street. The body remained there several hours and was then removed by a city truck.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Missouri Mob Burns Suspect In Assault Case

JAN 26 1942

By the Associated Press

Sikeston, Mo., Jan. 25.—A critically wounded Negro, suspected of the attempted rape of a white woman, was taken from jail today by a mob of more than 300, which dragged him through the Negro district and then set the body afire.

The mob victim was identified as Cleo Wright, 30, cotton mill worker.

Police said Wright admitted he had stabbed and critically wounded Mrs. Dillard Sturgeon, 29, wife of an Army sergeant and after his capture had stabbed Hess Perrigan, a patrolman. In turn Perrigan shot Wright three times.

Several hours after the Negro had been placed in jail, the mob gathered. They forced the doors and grabbed their victim.

David E. Blanton, Scott County prosecutor, attempted to reason with the crowd, but he was thrust aside.

Wright offered no resistance and said nothing. He was stuffed into the trunk compartment of a motor car and taken to the Negro district where he was dragged through the streets behind an automobile. Later the body was cut loose and gasoline applied.

JAN 26 1942

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

GRAND JURY TO HEAR FACTS ON LYNCHING

JAN 31 1942

Missouri Prosecutor Asks Judge To Summon Group

Special to The Commercial Appeal

SIKESTON, Mo., Jan. 30.—Prosecuting Attorney David E. Blanton announced Friday that he had requested Circuit Judge J. C. McDowell of Charleston to convene a grand jury.

Asked if the grand jury would be presented information regarding Sunday's mob action here in which Cleo Wright, 30-year-old negro ex-convict, was lynched after overnight violence in which a soldier's wife and a policeman were stabbed, the prosecutor said.

"That will be brought before it among other things."

JAN 31 1942

Missouri statutes provide that a grand jury be convened in each county once a year. None has been called in Scott County this year. The next term of circuit court in the county will be convened in Benton, the county seat, March 2.

Setting a date for convening the jury is left to the judge.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Wounded Man Lynched By Mob in Missouri

JAN 26 1942

SIKESTON, Mo., Jan. 25.—(AP) A critically wounded Negro, suspected of the attempted assault of a white woman, was taken from the city jail today today by a mob of more than 300 and lynched.

Harold Wallace, assistant chief of police, identified the mob victim as Cleo Wright, 30-year-old cotton oil worker.

JAN 26 1942

He said Wright admitted he had stabbed and critically wounded the wife of an Army sergeant and after his capture had stabbed Hess Perrigan, a patrolman. In turn, Perrigan shot Wright three times.

Bystander
Des Moines, Iowa

First Lynching of Year Takes Place at Sikeston; White Mob Breaks in Jail

JAN 29 1942

Sikeston, Mo.— Atrocious among the happenings of the day and more brutal than some of the methods of the World warfare was the lynching, Sunday morning, Jan. 25, when a mob of 600 Missourians took a Negro man from the city jail, dragged his body through the Negro district of the city and then burned his body on the grounds of the Negro school yard.

The man, Cleo Wright, 30-year-old cotton oil worker, was suspected of attempted rape of a white woman, Mrs. Grace Sturgeon, 29, wife of an army sergeant away on duty.

Before the mob got hold of Wright, he had been shot three times by an arresting policeman whom Wright had slashed in the face with a knife in reportedly resisting arrest.

JAN 29 1942

Lynchers Gather

The lynchers had gathered first outside Wright's house where he had been taken for treatment since the Sikeston hospitals do not treat Negroes. They dispersed there and gathered again outside the jail where Wright had been taken and placed in the women's section of the jail because of his serious condition.

The mob broke down the doors and the wounded Wright was later burned on the grounds of the Negro school, after being towed by his feet from an automobile which was driven at speeds varying from a crawl to 70 miles an hour.

JAN 29 1942

After Wright's body had been burned, the mob left it in the streets where it remained for several hours. Negro undertakers refused to handle the body, fearing mob activity.

The statement of Governor Donnell who was indignant over the matter, was "Regardless of how guilty a person may be, he is entitled to a fair trial in a court of Justice. Cleo Wright is no exception to this rule. The action of today's mob in taking the law into its own hands is a disgraceful blot on the state of Missouri."

JAN 29 1942

Judge Lynch and the Pole Cat

Newsweek - Dayton, Ohio

After the lynching of a Negro mill hand in Sikeston, Mo., a fortnight ago (NEWSWEEK, Feb. 2), the nation's newspapers attacked the city and county officials for failure to prevent the crime. Bucking the collective furor last week was a single editorial voice—that of The Sikeston Standard, published by C. L. Blanton.

The paper's self-styled Pole Cat Editor, who occasionally shocks or amuses fellow townspeople with smutty stories in his column, Blanton told his 2,069 subscribers that the violence was "an unfortunate incident, but . . . deserved," and he added: "This should be a warning for bad Negroes to stay out of Sikeston . . . [and] for night prowlers to leave the community or be dealt with in a like manner."

The publisher's contrary viewpoint was nothing new to "Swampeast" Missourians who know him as the Great Ferninster perpetually on the other side of every question. He has previously condoned lynchings.

FEB 9 - 1942

White-haired and wrinkled, the 78-year-old Blanton is the patriarch of a politically powerful Democratic clan. Only a few months ago he boasted of fifteen close relatives on the public payrolls, including a son-in-law, N. C. Watkins, Department of the Interior engineer; a son, J. Ben, Missouri Public Service Commission engineer; another son, Harry, the United States District Attorney at St. Louis. And still another son, the 33-year-old David, is—ironically enough—prosecutor of the county in which the lynching occurred.

David Blanton began a routine investigation. At first he himself, though present at the City Hall when the Negro was dragged from the detention cell, said he was unable to identify any of the ringleaders in the mob of 600. After questioning 25 reluctant witnesses, he commented: "The people seem to be well satisfied."

FEB 9 - 1942

Then some evidence fell into Blanton's lap. Three amateur photographers had taken motion pictures of the entire sequence of events. Mobsmen seized one camera; another amateur destroyed his film at the request of friends. The third had gardless of his father's views, the son had reel, taken with a telephoto lens, was a piece of prosecution ahead of him. turned over to the county official. Re-

6841

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Promise Probe In Mo. Lynching

Little Progress In Hunt For Mob Leaders

FEB 2 1942

SIKESTON, Mo.—(ANP)—Here in the little town of Sikeston, situated in the southeastern Missouri cotton country, the 10,000 residents have settled down to the ordinary routine of life after the lynching last Sunday of Cleo Wright, 30-year old man accused of attempted criminal assault. His alleged victim, Mrs. John D. Sturgeon, white, wife of an army sergeant sationed on the west coast and mother of an eight-year-old boy, is reported in grave condition at Sikeston General hospital here.

An investigation was begun last Monday into the incident to identify members of the mob who took Wright from the City hall, dragged him behind an automobile through the Negro residential district, then poured gasoline on the body and set it afire. However, as late as Thursday, no developments have been reported.

A delegation of 135 Missouri Negroes held audience with Gov. Forrest C. Donnell last Thursday, demanding that he suspend Scott county's sheriff and Sgt. Melvin Dace of the state patrol and appoint a special investigator for the lynching inquiry.

Heading the group were R. L. Witherspoon, St. Louis. Carl Johnson, Kansas City, and N. A. Sweet, editor of St. Louis American, who invaded the governor's mansion and asked that a special session of the legislature pass an anti-lynching law, and charged that Sikeston law-enforcement officers "not only failed to prevent the lynching, but actually gave encouragement to the mob."

FEB 2 1942

The delegation also asked that David Blanton, Scott County prosecutor, be dismissed from the investigation because of lack of interest. Blanton reported "slow progress" in his inquiries. It developed that he was at the jail at the time of the lynching, but said he did not recognize more than "two or three" of the mob of 700.

According to Sikeston's mayor, Dr. W. G. H. Pressnel, "It is understandable that witnesses to the lynching will not come forth. Most of them are businessmen of the community and of course, they don't want to risk being boycotted and forced to close up their places." He added quickly, however, that he knew no one who was in the mob.

The governor replied, "I promise you that the investigation of this lynching will be no formal gesture."

The prosecutor's father, Col. C. L. Blanton, owner of Sikeston's leading paper, editorialized his opinions of the lynching, which it was said is viewed with approval by other white residents. He said, "The mobbing of Cleo Wright Sunday morning was an unfortunate incident, but was deserved. It was the feeling of those near the city hall where the mob was formed that it was their duty to protect the wives of those soldiers, and that was what influenced the men."

FEB 2 1942

Wright was picked up by police after he was said to have entered the Sturgeon's home and stabbed the woman when she tried to escape. On the way to the police station, Wright pulled another knife and slashed one of the patrolman around the neck. Both were taken to Sikeston's General hospital, where Wright was treated and then removed to his home. However, upon insistance of his wife, Wright was removed to the city jail where he was placed in the women's washroom.

Questions were raised as to why he was not placed in the regular jail, to which police replied that the detention room has a mattress covered cot, while the bunks in the jail cells are of metal, and that it was thought Wright was dying of bullet wounds and would be more comfortable in the detention room.

FEB 2 1942

Formerly a woman's washroom, and now a detention room for women prisoners, the door consisted of a glass and thin wood panel. When the mob formed at the jail, it was said that the sheriff tried to dissuade them, but to no avail. Upon learning that another deputy had the key to the door, the mob smashed the door down and took the prisoner out.

A car was commandeered, and the wounded man was tied by his heels to the automobile and dragged by six churches in the Negro district, where services were in progress. He was then dragged alongside the Missouri Pacific Railroad tracks, and then cut loose. For several minutes, the crowd stood watching him. Then an elderly man in overalls walked up and poured gasoline over the body, to which a younger man dropped a lighted match. According to Prosecutor Blanton he has not been able to learn the identity of these two men.

FEB 2 1942

Before his death, Wright had served a 60-day jail sentence for theft of a revolver and a sentence in the Missouri penitentiary for burglary. His confession stated that, "I guess I was just full of bad whiskey" when he committed the attempted assault.

Mrs. Sturgeon told relatives that Wright had entered her bedroom and said, "Oh there's two of you here tonight. Keep your mouths shut, or I'll kill you both."

The other woman was Mrs. Sturgeon's sister-in-law, who escaped and called for help. The wounded woman said after her sister-in-law fled Wright threatened to "cut you down to my size if you don't stand still." Attempting to escape, she declared that he slashed her across the abdomen and then attempted to cut her throat. Her fingers were severly cut when she threw up her hand and grabbed the knife blade.

Wright is then said to have knocked her down and fled. At no time did he demand her money, was her concluding statement.

FEB 2 1942

It was learned that a fund of $160, including $50 appropriated by the city council in a special session last Sunday, was raised to pay Sgt. Sturgeon's traveling expenses from camp to his home.

Meanwhile, the NAACP in New York dispatched a message to President Roosevelt urging him to request congressional legislation to make it possible for the federal government to act in lynchings throughout the nation.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

NEGRO LYNCHED BY MOB; BODY BURNED IN STREET

JAN 26 1942

300 Force Missouri Jail and Seize Prisoner.

Sikeston, Mo., Jan. 25 [Special].—A mob of 300 broke into the city jail here today, removed a Negro accused of attempting to rape a white woman, and lynched him.

The mob dragged the Negro 10 blocks thru the streets behind an automobile until he was dead and then burned the body in a street in the Negro section.

Sixteen state highway patrolmen were on guard in the Negro section tonight, and members of the American Legion patroled streets leading into the area.

JAN 26 1942

Ordered to Remain Indoors.

Negroes were ordered to remain indoors and white persons were prevented from entering the section. Approximately 2,000 Negroes live in the area.

Police said the lynching victim, Cleo Wright, 30 years old, a cotton oil mill worker, admitted breaking into the home of Mrs. Grace Sturgeon, 29, shortly after midnight and stabbing her when she fought off his attempt to rape her.

Mrs. Sturgeon, the wife of Sergt. Dillard Sturgeon, a member of the Missouri National Guard called into the regular army, was near death in the Sikeston General hospital.

Knife Found in Pocket.

After the attack, which was witnessed by Mrs. Sturgeon's son, James, 8, and by her sister-in-law, Mrs. John Sturgeon, with whom she lives, Wright was arrested on suspicion by Policeman Hess Perrigan, who found him walking toward the Negro section. A bloody knife was in Wright's pocket.

JAN 26 1942

As Wright was being taken to the police station in a squad car he drew another knife and slashed at Perrigan, cutting him on the face and neck. Perrigan, sitting beside Wright in the police car, drew his revolver and fired three shots, wounding the Negro.

Perrigan and Wright both were taken to the hospital, where Wright received emergency treatment. He was removed to the city jail when a mob gathered outside the hospital. The mob broke up, but formed again outside the jail.

Mob Forces Jail.

At the jail Chief of Police Walter Kendall and Prosecuting Attorney David Blanton pleaded with the mob to disperse. The two were shouldered aside, however, and the mob forced two jail doors and dragged Wright outside.

He was thrown, unresisting, into the trunk of an automobile and taken to the Negro district. There he was removed from the trunk, tied behind the car, and dragged thru the streets.

After dragging Wright for 10 blocks, the mob poured gasoline over the body and set it on fire in the center of the street. The body remained in the street several hours and then was removed into city truck.

Woman Given Transfusions.

Mrs. Sturgeon, an employé of a shoe factory, was stabbed several times in the abdomen and her hands were cut when she attempted to protect her throat from the attacker's knife thrusts. She was given three blood transfusions.

Her sister-in-law told police the assailant apparently had watched their home for some time. She said he smashed the glass in the kitchen door, but, failing in his attempt to enter that way, broke a window and climbed thru. The noise awakened the two women, who screamed. The intruder grappled with Mrs. Sturgeon and slashed her.

JAN 26 1942

A movement was under way among Sikeston's 6,000 white residents to raise a fund to pay Sergt. Sturgeon's transportation to Sikeston if he is able to obtain a leave of absence from the army.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

NEGRO IS LYNCHED BY MISSOURI CROWD

JAN 26 1942

Suspected of Attempted Attack on White Woman, He Is Seized in Invasion of Jail

SIKESTON, Mo., Jan. 25 (AP)—A critically wounded Negro, suspected of an attempted attack on a white woman, was taken from the city jail today by a crowd of more than 300, which dragged him through the Negro district and then set the body afire.

Harold Wallace, assistant chief of police, identified the victim as Cleo Wright, 30-year-old cotton mill worker. JAN 26 1942

He said that Wright admitted he had stabbed and critically wounded Mrs. Dillard Sturgeon, 29, wife of an Army sergeant, and that after his capture he had stabbed Hess Perrigan, a patrolman. In turn Patrolman Perrigan shot Wright three times.

Several hours after the Negro had been put in the detention room of the city jail the crowd began gathering. At 11:30 A. M. it forced the front doors of the City Hall and seized the victim.

David E. Blanton, Scott County prosecutor, attempted to reason with the crowd, but he was thrust aside. JAN 26 1942

300 Watch Burning of Body

Wright offered no resistance and said nothing. He was stuffed into the trunk compartment of a motor car and taken to the Negro district, where he was dragged through the streets behind an automobile. Later the body was cut loose and gasoline applied.

I. A. Myers, a newspaper man, estimated that about 300 persons watched the burning of the body.

Mr. Wallace told this story of events leading up to the crowd action: JAN 26 1942

About 1:30 A. M. a man entered the Sturgeon home, occupied by Mrs. Sturgeon and her sister-in-law, Mrs. John Sturgeon, also the wife of a soldier.

Mrs. John Sturgeon escaped, but the intruder grabbed Mrs. Dillard Sturgeon and stabbed her, inflicting a deep wound in the left side.

After a chase across the town Officer Perrigan captured Wright, disarmed him of a knife and put him in the back seat of his motor car. JAN 26 1942

The officer, apparently having obtained a driver for the machine, joined his captive in the back seat. Wright pulled another knife from his shoe and began hacking at the officer's face, severing an artery under his tongue. In the struggle, Officer Perrigan drew his revolver and shot Wright three times.

State Police Join Patrol

The Southeast Missouri office of the State Highway Patrol concentrated sixteen of its twenty-two patrolment here tonight. They were patroling the Negro section in the western outskirts of this city of 8,000. About one-fourth of the population is Negro. American Legion members guarded streets leading into the area.

Negroes were ordered to remain indoors. White persons were prevented from entering.

The Sikeston Red Cross collected $150 so Sergeant Sturgeon, stationed in California, might return to his wife. JAN 26 1942

A city truck removed the Negro's body after it had been in the street several hours.

An immediate "searching and thorough investigation" and indictment of every person who had "any part, great or small, in this mob violence" was ordered tonight by Governor Donnell in Jefferson City. He said he fully concurred in a suggestion by Scott County Prosecutor Blanton that a grand jury be called to investigate the case.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Lynch Victims Body Burned in Mo. Street

JAN 31 1942

SIKESTON, Mo.—A city truck removed the charred body of Cleo Wright, 30-year-old cotton mill worker, from the street here Sunday afternoon several hours after his lifeless body had been doused with gasoline and a match applied by a mob of more than 300 persons.

The critically wounded man had been stuffed into the truck compartment of an automobile after the mob reportedly forced the door of the City Hall at 11:30 a.m., and taken to the colored section where he was dragged through the streets behind an automobile. Later the body was cut loose and burned.

Accused of Attack

According to Assistant Chief of Police Harold Wallace, the man had admitted having stabbed and attempted criminal assault upon the white wife of an army sergeant at about 1:30 a.m. Following his arrest by Patrolman Hess Perrigan, Wright was shot three times after he had allegedly stabbed the officer. JAN 31 1942

Sixteen of the twenty-two men of the southeast Missouri office of the State highway patrol were sent here soon after the lynching to patrol the colored section of the city. Approximately one fourth of the city's 8,000 inhabitants are colored.

All colored persons were ordered to remain in their houses and white persons were prevented from entering the streets leading to the area. JAN 31 1942

Gov. Orders Probe

An immediate "searching and thorough investigation" and indictment of every person who had "any part, great or small, in this mob violence," has been ordered by Gov. Forest C. Donnell in Jefferson City.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Mob Murder

JAN 27 1942

The State of Missouri has now to answer for as sickening a display of mob violence as has occurred in a long time. Sunday morning a crowd of several hundred persons forced the Sikeston jail, dragged out a critically wounded prisoner and, with revolting fiendishness, lynched him. It was an act on a par with the diabolical murders perpetrated by Nazi and Japanese gangsters in their more ruthless moments. Prompt prosecution of the leaders and members of the mob has been promised by the Governor of Missouri but retribution, however severe, will not make up for the mob's despicable action or for its lawless challenge. As a Nation we are now committed to wiping out similar mass lawlessness abroad. That it should appear in our midst is depressing proof that mob murder can be a universal phenomenon. JAN 27 1942

Fortunately, recent instances of it among us have been relatively few. Last year there were but four lynchings throughout the country. That was four too many, but the record is a decided improvement over that of a few years back. Penologists, however, have already noted that with the war has come a mounting disregard for the law and consequently a rising incidence of domestic crime. It is a disturbing manifestation and one which, when translated into mob action, may lead to savage incidents not unlike that at Sikeston. Drastic law enforcement will help prevent lynchings in some instances; but the only truly effective preventive is community refusal to countenance these sporadic outbreaks of mass barbarism. JAN 27 1942

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Missouri Gov. Orders Lynchers Prosecuted

JAN 27 1942

SIKESTON, Mo., Jan. 26 (UP).—Local authorities, spurred by the Governor of Missouri who did not conceal his anger, undertook today to find, arrest and prosecute the leaders and members of a mob which lynched a Negro.

The Negro, semi-conscious from three bullet wounds, was dragged from the local jail as services in the local churches were ending yesterday. His feet were tied to the back of an automobile which towed him through the streets, at speeds varying from a crawl to 70 miles an hour. Gasoline was poured over his body and set afire.

David Blanton, prosecutor for Scott County, received his orders within hours from Gov. Forrest Donnell in Jefferson City. JAN 27 1942

"Regardless of how guilty a person may be, he is entitled to a fair trial in a court of justice," Donnell said. "Cleo Wright was not an exception to this rule. The action of today's mob in taking law into its own hands is a disgraceful blot on the state of Missouri. Every possible effort must be made to bring to justice all who took part in this cruel violence.

"I am confident the prosecuting attorney will use every effort to that end. It is my earnest desire that a searching and thorough investigation be made immediately, that an indictment of every person whom the Grand Jury shall deem to have had any part, whether great or small, in this mob violence be returned and that prompt trial of each and every person shall be had." JAN 27 1942

[Wright was arrested on a charge of burglary and on the usual "rape" accusation, which is often resorted to to frame Negro workers. He had been neither indicted nor officially booked.]

Policeman Hess Perrigan arrested Wright. On the way to the jail, Perrigan drew his pistol and fired four times. Wright was hit in the chest, abdomen, and arm.

HOSPITAL BARS NEGRO JAN 27 1942

The local hospital refuses to take Negro patients. Wright was taken to his shack in the Negro section where he was treated, then removed to the women's section of the jail because of his critical condition. That was 9 A. M. Two hours later, a crowd began gathering at the jail. No one was on duty.

Sergeant Melvin Dace of the State Highway Patrol happened by and saw 300 men attempting to remove the jail's outside door. He made a speech, urging the men to go home. They didn't and he called for aid. Police Chief Walter Kendell, Prosecutor Blanton, and two patrolmen arrived. They made speeches and tried to guard the three doors to the jail. The mob had grown to approximately 600 persons. The mob broke down one door and dragged out the wounded Negro. As he was being towed behind the car toward the Negro districts, several hundred more joined the mob. He was burned on the grounds of the Negro school.

Police established a guard over the Negro section made up of hovels and shacks.

The City Council authorized Mayor G. W. H. Pressnell to make burial arrangements for Wright's body. Negroes in the community feared further mob activity. JAN 27 1942

Sikeston is in the cotton raising section of southeast Missouri. Negroes form approximately one fourth of the population.

6842

37a-1942
Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

MISSOURI

Missouri Mob Burns Dead Man In Street

SIKESTON, Mo. — Shot three times by an officer and held in the detention room of the ctiy jail here after he had been apprehended on charges of attempted rape and stabbing a white woman, Cleo Wright, 30, cotton oil mill worker, was taken from the jail by a mob of over 300 here last Sunday, dragged through the streets of the colored section until dead, then his body was set on fire after it had been soaked with gasoline, and hundreds of Sikeston's white citizens watched it burn to a crisp.

Harold Wallace, assistant chief of police, who identified the remains of the hapless victim, said Wright had confessed to critically wounding Mrs. Dillard Sturgeon, wife of an army sergeant, and after his capture had stabbed Hess Perrigan, patrolman.

Police say Wright entered the home of the Sturgeons about 1:30 Sunday morning, occupied by Mrs. Sturgeon, and her sister-ni-law, Mrs. John Sturgeon, who is said to have escaped the attempts of the intruder.

The report said the man grabbed Mrs. Dillard Sturgeon and stabbed her in the left side, inflicting a serious wound.

Officer Perrigan captured Wrigh after a chase through the town and put him in the back seat of his car. Obtaining a driver, the officer got in the back seat with his prisoner, who had been disarmed of a knife.

HAD TWO KNIVES

On the trip to the jail, the man is said to have pulled another knife from his shoe and attacked Perrigan, severing an artery under the officer's tongue. In the struggle, the officer drew his gun and shot Wright three times.

About 11:30 Sunday morning the mob broke into the front and rear doors of the jail, thrust aside David E. Blanton, Scott County prosecutor when he attempted to reason with them, and grabbed the man who, weakened as he was from the shots, could offer no resistance. JAN 31 1942

They stuffed him into the trunk compartment of an automobile and drove to the colored section of the city. There, he was bound and tied to the rear of the car and dragged through the streets until life was extinct.

Ordering all colored persons to remain in their homes, the mob poured gasoline over the mangled corps in th center of the street and set it afire.

WATCH BODY BURN

I. A. Myers, a newspaper man, said that over 300 whites stood around and watched the flames consume the victim's remains before dispersing.

The colored section was then patrolled by highway patrolmen, and white persons were prevented from entering it after they had left the scene of the burning. The body was left in the street for several hours before being removed by a city truck.

Sikeston has a population of 3,000, of which approximately one-fourth is colored.

Governor Forrest Donnell of Missouri issued an order Monday for apprehension and prosecution of the leaders of the mob that dragged a wounded colored prisoner to his death through the colored section of Sikeston Sunday and then set fire to his gasoline-soaked body. The mob, first said to be 300, was later estimated at over 600. JAN 31 1942

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Democracy?

JAN 31 1942

American Mob Kills American

JAN 31 1942

Last Sunday evening while white Americans were being kept off the streets of Manila, in the Philippine Islands, colored Americans were instructed to remain off the streets of Sikeston, Missouri.

Thus did Fascist Japan and Democratic America give the life to Kipling's famous dictum that "East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet."

Up to the present, however, the Japanese have refrained from tying any American citizen to an automobile, dragging him alive at high speed through the streets of Manila, drenching his body with gasoline, igniting it and howling with fiendish glee as the victim writhes in pain.

Accused Of Assault

The Sikeston mob victim, a 30-year-old mill worker, Cleo Wright, was accused of assaulting a soldier's wife. Police shot him four times, after he had stabbed an officer who tried to arrest him. Because the local hospital did not admit colored people, the bleeding prisoner was taken to the city jail, from which he was forcibly removed hours later by a mob.

Tied to an automobile, he was dragged through the portion of the city where the 3500 colored inhabitants live at a speed of 70 miles per hour. Eventually, a five-gallon can of gasoline was emptied on him and a match applied. Satisfied that he was dead, the mob dispersed and the authorities took charge of his dead body, carrying it back to the jail.

Prevent Futher Violence

Following the lynching, state police and deputy sheriffs were placed on duty to prevent any further violence; the same state police who had been overpowered a few hours earlier by the mob. JAN 31 1942

Behind the darkest cloud there is said to be a "silver lining." Governor Forrest Donnell, of Missouri, has ordered David E. Blanton, prosecutor for Scott county, to "find, arrest and prosecute the leaders of the mob." This ought not to be difficult in part since Blanton unsuccessfully addressed the mob, urging them to let the law take its orderly course.

Will Prosecute Guilty

"Regardless of how guilty a person may be, he is entitled to a fair trial," Donnell said. "Cleo Wright was not an exception.

"The action of the mob in taking law into its own hands is a disgraceful blot on the State of Missouri. Every possible effort must be made to bring to justice all who took part in this cruel violence.

"I am confident the prosecuting attorney will use every effort to that end. It is my earnest desire that a thorough investigation be made immediately and that every person the Grand Jury shall deem to have had any part in this mob violence be returned and that prompt trials be held." JAN 31 1942

No Identifications

Blanton issued a statement Monday that he had been unable to identify any of the persons in the mob of 600 and that he had been given five versions of the license number of the car used to drag Wright's body to the colored school yard, where he was burned to death.

The national office of the NAACP has wired President Roosevelt asking him to sponsor legislation against lynching. "We are certain," the wire read, "that Japanese propagandists are already citing this lynching as evidence of what colored races of the Far East may suffer if the democracies win precisely as they have used the recent brutal attack on Negro soldiers at Alexandria, La., to the same purpose."

dozen armed and resolute men out of the 8000 could probably have stopped the mob in its tracks. One wonders what effect the tragedy will have on the 2000 Negro residents of Sikeston, most of whom must be as law-abiding and self-respecting as their white neighbors. What does it do to the 5700 white people who did not act with the mob but who are contaminated by this abuse of justice? What does it do to school children, who ought to be taught to respect human rights? FEB 26 1942

And how sadly do such events tarnish the cause of democracy at war! There are few happenings in the United States that afford more comfort to the Nazis than evidences of lawlessness. Lynchings are their prize exhibit in proof of the alleged hypocrisy of the free societies.

(The New York Times, New York City)

Christian Recorder
Philadelphia, Pa.

SIKESTON DISGRACES ITSELF

FEB 26 1942

The little city of Sikeston, Mo., earned an unholy notoriety on Sunday (January 25) when a mob took a seriously wounded Negro prisoner from the city jail, dragged him through the streets, and ended by setting the body on fire. The man was charged with breaking into a house and wounding a white woman. Police said he had confessed. Whether or not he was guilty, he was denied the right of trial, an American community was disgraced, and the old, hideous crime of mob murder had another advertisement. FEB 26 1942

Three hundred men committed the crime. The population of the city is about 8000. A

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

Drop Lynching Probe Or Face Race Riot Is Sikeston, Mo. Threat

FEB 20 1942

N. A. A. C. P. Investigators Find No Whites Who Saw Lynching Will Testify; Town 'Closed to Outsiders'

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—White citizens in Sikeston will not testify against each other in any prosecution for guilt in the lynching of Cleo Wright there January 25, and they use the threat of a race riot to prevent further investigation and publicity. These facts came out in an investigation for and report to the NAACP made last week by Mr. and Mrs. L. Benoist Tompkins of this city who spent 24 hours in Sikeston four days after the lynching, questioning leading whites in the community and leading Negroes in Sunset Addition, the Negro ghetto.

FEB 20 1942

Mob Was "Just Folks"

The make-up of the mob was described as being "just folks . . . not like our last lynching . . . done by the upper classes." Southeast Missouri's last lynching was in Mississippi County, December 18, 1934, when a mob stormed the jail and took out a Negro accused of raping a white girl.

Fear of Negroes, the need to "keep the Negro in his place" and the feudal nature of southeast Missouri, where a very few people own all the land and the rest are vassals, are behind the story of the brutal lynching, the Tompkinses reported.

FEB 20 1942

"Along with this feeling runs a genuine fear of the Negro's physical violence. 'Negroes are naturally vicious', they said, 'with less control over their emotions'. It follows that 'violence is necessary to keep them subservient'. It also follows that killing a Negro is not a crime like killing a white man, because the Negro is closer to brute than to an independent human individual with human rights. There is a carry-over of feeling in Sikeston today that goes back to the old-time southern idea that "every white man had to have several colored women, and kill one nigger, before he became a man indeed."

The investigators said: "We were given the definite impression that the lynchers would not be ostracized by the community; on the other hand those who might testify against the lynchers would be ostracized. Even the most liberal man to whom we spoke said that had he witnessed the crime (which he had not) he would not be inclined to testify."

Negroes themselves are afraid to identify any of themob even though they saw the entire proceedings and know those responsible.

One man in the Sunset Addition on being questioned by the Tompkines was technical and said he would not talk "to white folks". "We did not ask him to talk," the investigators stated, "because it is clear that he does not have police protection in Sikeston."

Negroes "Too Cocky"

"One person suggested that the tension between poor whites and Negro labor might have some bearing on the lynching. The poor whites object to equality with the Negro even more than the wealthy ones. Racial feelings are more bitter among the poor, because 'if they can't feel superior to the Negro, what would they feel superior about?' Many of this class of workers were in the lynching crowd.

FEB 20 1942

The report also revealed that the lynching of Cleo Wright was not an isolated incident, but that tension had been growing over a period of time. Feeling had been growing that Negroes were getting "too cocky".

"There is increasing feeling against labor unions organizing Negroes," the investigators said. "Negro labor is less subservient than white labor at present and employers do not expect this. With the threat of a labor shortage looming close, employers resent any encouragement to labor to become too courageous and demanding. Negroes have been the beasts of burden in southeast Missouri and since it is important to the economic set-up that they remain in this status, they are not encouraged to develop. The white people of southeast Missouri do not like independent Negroes. There was a growing feeling that they should be put back in the place where they belong."

FEB 20 1942

In commenting on their report Mr. and Mrs. Tompkins observed:

"The Sikeston incident points to certain breakdowns in our legal system: Under our present laws, lynching, which is defined as murder, goes unpunished, because the crime is judged in local courts by those who themselves believe in lynching. Young Prosecuting Attorney Blanton will hardly sacrifice both his career and personal friends, by prosecuting those friends who elected him to office. Even the most liberal of the planters said he would 'not be inclined to testify'. A local grand jury cannot be expected to indict, when it may have on it some of those who were in the lynch mob. Not until prosecution and judgment are taken out of the local courts will there be any chance of exacting justice."

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

PHILOSOPHY

FEB 13 1942



L. J. HARRIS

Mr. President:
The Negro is with you in making the world safe for democracy. Are you with us in making America safe for the Negro?

It's easier to remember Pearl Harbor than it is to forget Sikeston, Missouri.

FEB 13 1942

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

BUTLER COUNTY CITIZENS SEND STINGING PETITION TO DONNELL

The following resolution and petition was forwarded to Governor Forrest C. Donnell by the Butler County Negro Citizens Committee with headquarters at Poplar Bluff, Mo.

The Hon. F. C. Donnell:—

"The Negro Citizens Committee of Poplar Bluff and Butler County presents herein, a RESOLUTION, to express the uniform opinion of law-abiding Negro citizens of this vicinity, which exposes first a resentful attitude against violation of law and second, the indignity of certain citizens who committed a disgraceful act against the State of Missouri, which resulted in the brutal lynching of Cleo Wright, a Negro; January 25th, 1942 within the city limits of Sikeston, Scott County, which is also within the boundary lines of the Commonwealth of Missouri, to observe that all are created equal and that they are endorsed with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty and the pursuits of happiness. Such being our conviction, we respectfully request that the complete authority which is vested in your Executive Office be executed with a view and to the end that a thorough investigation obtain in this matter of gross violation of law.

FEB 13 1942

"WHEREAS, Current information prevail in this vicinity which creates a belief that special proceeding should obtain with a view of obtaining the extent of Sergeant Dace's (a member of the highway patrol), conduct during the process of this action, which in our opinion, greatly facilitated the efforts of those who were participants. We therefore ask that special attention be given to the action of this officer of law. We further believe that no law enforcement officer at this scene during the course of such arbitrary action should be free of criticism. Our belief is predicated on the fact that the laws of the State of Missouri are fully adequate to deal with any citizen or group of citizens who transgress.

FEB 13 1942

"This presentation comes as a well considered request, not to convey an idea that we condone crime, but to urge that the laws of the State of Missouri be respected by all people. In our opinion, every person is presumed innocent until substantial evidence brings a conviction in a court of law. We pledge to you our loyalty and complete devo-

tion, to the interest and welfare of the State of Missouri and the United States of America, during this world conflict. As we know that we are equally concerned in the protection of life, liberty and pursuits of happiness; with all other citizens of this Great Commonwealth.

"We therefore, trust that in due time and all persons who participated in this act of violence, will be brought to justice.

Respectfully submitted,
The Butler County Negro
Citizen Committee.

6843

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

Burn Negro To Crisp In Wake Of Church Hour; Rape Cry Weak

JAN 30 1942

Identification of Killers Difficult, Says Local Law and Prosecutors

SIKESTON, Mo.—The first lynching for the nation for 1942 came early in the year when a Negro, Cleo Wright, 26 year old employe of the Sikeston Cotton Seed Milling company, was dragged through the streets of Sikeston behind an automobile, his feet tied to the rear bumper of the car, for several blocks to the Negro community where he was untied in front of the school, his clothing saturated with gasoline, and burned.

In spite of the fact that it was a quiet Sunday morning and the community had been evoked with the spirit of God from all of the pulpits in the city, that spirit was immediately turned in the opposite direction, and hell broke loose when white savages committed the most beastly crime in America before women and children in the front of the seat of democracy—a schoolhouse.

Wright's blood was spilled on the streets of this little town not for democracy, but to satisfy the blood-thirsty lynchers who disgraced not only the state of Missouri, but the entire United States. Wright's blooo leaves a stain in that town which symbolizes ignorance, disrespect for the law, intolerance, barbarism, animal life, inhumanism and everything else that represents the dark ages.

Many colored citizens here were talking about leaving the town and finding other homes. However financial conditions will prevent this to any large degree.

Old settlers say that Sikeston is one of the meanest towns in the state of Missouri and that white folks don't give a colored man a chance. When colored people first came here, they were not allowed to live in home of thier own. They had to be sharecroppers or move on, it was learned.

JAN 30 1942

Stories vary as to Wright's crime, some being that it was attempted rape and others that it was attempted burglary. However it is reprted that [illegible] broke into the home of Sgt. and Mrs. Dillard Sturgeon at Sikeston, about 1:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 25. He entered the bedroom where Mrs. Sturgeon and her eight year old son were sleeping, and also a sister-in-law, Mrs. James Sturgeon. The husbands of the women were away in the army. The women awakened, according to reports, when a window was raised, and Wright told them to keep quiet or he would kill them. When the women ran screaming from the room, Wright slashed Mrs. Dillard Sturgeon with his knife, the report states. Her sister-in-law and her son escaped uninjured. Police were called to the scene.

JAN 30 1942

Police Officer Cut in Face

Police Officer Perrigan responded to the call and went to the scene. After picking up a neighbor, Jesse Whitley, they drove to the Negro district and found Wright who had a knife with a three-inch blade. The officers said aparently there was blood on his clothing. Wright was disarmed and put in the back seat of the car and Whitley took the wheel of the car. The other officer got in the back seat with Wright. Wright then drew another knife and cut Perrigan about the mouth and face. Whitley shot Wright three times, injuring him critically. Wrght was taken to his home but his wife was afraid for him to stay there and she asked the officer to take him to jail. Officer Perrigan was unable to talk because of a cut in the mouth or on his tongue.

JAN 30 1942

Slashed Across Abdomen

While being taken to a hospital Mrs. Sturgeon is reported to have told relatives that Wright entered her bedroom and upon seeing the two women said, "Oh, there's two of you here tonight. Keep your mouth shut or I'll kill you both". Wright then cornered Mrs. Dillard Sturgeon and said, "I'm going to cut you down to my size if you don't stand still". Mrs. James Sturgeon ran out of the room. As she attempted to escape, Mrs. Dillard Sturgeon was slashed across the abdomen and four of her fingers were almost severed as she threw up her hand in an attempt to grab the knife. Wright then knocked her to the floor and fled.

JAN 30

Sergeant Sturgeon who is stationed in California was sent $10 to take a plane to return home. This money was raised by the Red Cross with fifty dollars being appropriated by a special session of the City Council.

Worshippers View Tradegy

Many of this Southeast Missouri's population of about 8,0[illegible] were returning from church services when this horrible [illegible] scene took place. No doubt some of its church-goers had remained away from church on this Sunday to take part in the lynching. At any rate it is estimated that between three and five hundred people constituted the mob who took the law in its own hands and without benefit of trial and conviction, burned Wright to death in the streets of the town. The body of Wright lay in the dirt front of the school for several hours after the lynching when hundreds of persons returning from church viewed it. Many of the curious came especially to view the charred body. Later a city dump truck took the body away and it was kept in the city hall all night and Monday it was buried in Potters Field in Carpenter, Mo., north of Sikeston. All undertakers in Sikeston refuse to handle the dead man's body and it was buried without ceremony. State Highway Patrol Withdrawn

State highway patrolmen withdrew from the Sunset (Negro) community in the Southwest section of Sikeston Tuesday after high feelings seemed to have subsided since Sunday's lynching. Prosecuting Attorney David Bilton announced that he and other officials had been questioning persons in regard to Sunday's lynching and said that the grand jury investigation would be held as quickly as they could get ready for it.

JAN 30 1942

Attorney Blanton said, "Of course the law has been violated and we are interested in finding the persons responsible, but under circumstances like these, it is a tough job. It is hard to get a man to testify against his friend or neighbor. Many people in the crowd were probably curiosity seekers, and when you take a case in court you have to have evidence.

"Granted that justice has been thwarted in this matter, we do not want to compound injustice by prosecuting innocent people." Bilton said several possible leads to the mob leaders were being followed. "I believe the same thing might have happened if a white man had been involved," he said. "The fact that this Negro had a bad reputation and had previously served time in prison for burglary and larceny aggravated the case."

JAN 30 1942

Gov. Donnell Asks Indictment

Governor Forrest C. Donnell Sunday night termed the lynching at Sikeston as a "disgraceful blot on the state of Missouri" and ordered an immediate investigation and probe. Governor Donnell who was notified of the lynching by phone at his home went immediately to his office and telephoned Sikeston officials who told him they feared a race riot. He ordered highway patrolmen to go on immediate duty and asked the sheriff of Scott County to deputize as many assistants as would be necessary to preserve order.

JAN 30 1942

Governor Donnell issued the following statement: "Regardless of how guilty a person may be he is entitled to a fair trial in a court of justice. [illegible] not an exception to the law [illegible] disgraceful [illegible] Missouri.

"Every possible effort [illegible] made to bring to justice all who took any part in this cruel violence. It is my earnes desire that every person whom the grand jury shall deem to have had any part whether great or small, in the mob violence be returned and the prompt trial of each and every such person shall be had."

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

TELLS OF FEELING IN LYNCH TOWN

JAN 30 1942 3-7a

SIKESTON, Mo.—"They told us to go get the body after it had been burned," Mrs. Mattie D. Smith, owner of the Smith funeral home, told the Argus reporters," but we refused because we were not sure of protection."

Since the crowd hung around the body of Cleo Wright, lynch victim, for four hours Sunday until a city truck removed it, Mrs. Smith said that she and her son did not dare touch the charred and smoldering body.

When the crowd did not break up, Mrs. Smith said that she and her son called city officials and told them what was happening.



MRS. MATTIE D. SMITH

Mrs. Smith said that she phoned Mayor G. W. H. Presnell and when she did not get a satisfactory answer, she and her son went downtown and demanded that protective measures be taken by the Mayor and Chief of Police Kendall.

"Most of the colored families were in church during the time of the lynching and failed to see the cars. At the time I was sitting in church, (Smith's Chapel AME), when I heard a loud noise like a crash or an explosion. Pastor Ross told us to sit still that it was only an automobile burning up, so we settled in our seats again and the pastor kept preaching. Again we heard the terrible sounds of honking horns and yelling men and women. JAN 30 1942 "Then some children came in and told us what was happening," Mrs. Smith related. "I just didn't know what to do. We were so scared. We couldn't see anything but the black smoke and the yelling crowd, milling around. One of Sikeston's foremost colored citizens, Mrs. Smith owns a whole block of property in the colored section, called, "Sunset,"

Lynch Leaders 'Unrecognized'

Courier - Pittsburg Times

Citizen Delegation Calls on Governor and Demands Removal of Negligent Officials—Prosecutor's Father Justifies Mob's Action.

FEB 7 - 1942

FEB 7 - 1942

SIKESTON, Mo., Feb. 6—(ANP)—Here in the little town of Sikeston, situated in the southeastern Missouri cotton country, the 10,000 residents have settled down to the ordinary routine of life after the lynching last Sunday of Cleo Wright, 30-year-old man accused of assault. His alleged victim, Mrs. John D. Sturgeon, white, wife of an army sergeant stationed on the west coast and mother of an eight-year-old boy, is reported in grave condition at Sikeston General Hospital here.

An investigation was begun last Monday into the incident to identify members of the mob who took Wright from the city hall, dragged him behind an automobile through the Negro residential district, then poured gasoline on the body and set it afire. However, as late as Thursday, no developments have been reported.

DELEGATION SEES GOVERNOR

A delegation of 135 Missouri Negroes held audience with Gov. Forrest C. Donnell last Thursday, demanding that he suspend Schott county's sheriff and Sgt. Melvin Dace of the state patrol and appoint a special investigator for the lynching inquiry.

Heading the group were R. L. Witherspoon, St. Louis; Carl Johnson, Kansas City, and N. A. Sweet, editor of St. Louis American, who invaded the governor's mansion and asked that a special session of the legislature pass an anti-lynching law and charged that Sikeston law-enforcement officers "not only failed to prevent the lynching, but actually gave encouragement to the mob."

DEMAND REMOVAL OF OFFICIALS

The delegation also asked that David Blanton, Scott County prosecutor, be dismissed from the investigation because of lack of interest. Blanton reported "slow progress" in his inquiries. It developed that he was at the jail at the time of the lynching, but said he did not recognize more than "two or three" of the mob of 700.

According to Sikeston's mayor, Dr. W. G. H. Pressnel, "It is understandable that witnesses to the lynching will not come forth. Most of them are businessmen of the community and of course, they don't want to risk being boycotted and forced to close up their places." He added quickly, however, that he knew no one who was in the mob.

FEB 7 - 1942

The governor replied, "I promise you that the investigation of this lynching will be no formal gesture."

The prosecutor's father, Col. C. L. Blanton, owner of Sikeston's leading paper, editorialized his opinions of the lynching, which it was said is viewed with approval by other white residents. He said, "The mobbing of Cleo Wright Sunday morning was an unfortunate incident, but was deserved. It was the feeling of those near the city hall where the mob was formed that it was their duty to protect the wives of those soldiers, and that was what influence the men."

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Mo. Lynching to Be Probed

FEB 7 - 1942

SIKESTON, Mo., (ANP) — An investigation, which Gov. Forrest C. Donnell declared will not be a "gesture," was begun last Monday to identify members of the mob which took Cleo Wright, 30, from the City Hall, dragged him behind an automobile through the colored residential district, then poured gasoline on the body and set it afire.

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FEB 7 - 1942

Ask Antilynch Law

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FEB 7 - 1942

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Paper Approves

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Shot Three Times

Wright was picked up by Night Patrolman Hess Perrigan after he was said to have entered a white home and stabbed a woman. He was shot three times in the scuffle with the officer.

On the way to the police station, Wright is said to have pulled another knife and slashed one of the patrolmen around the neck. Both were taken to Sikeston's General Hospital, where Wright was treated and then removed to his home.

FEB 7 - 1942

Wright's wife insisted that he be taken back to the hospital. Instead, he was removed to the city jail where he was placed in the women's washroom, which is now a detention room for women prisoners.

FEB 7 - 1942

Questions were raised as to why he was not placed in the regular jail, to which police officers replied that the detention room has a mattress-covered cot, while the bunks in the jail cells are of metal.

It was thought, they said, that Wright was dying of bullet wounds and would be more comfortable in the detention room.

Sheriff Met Mob

The door to the room consisted of a glass and thin wood panel. When the mob formed at the jail, it was said that the sheriff tried to dissuade them, but to no avail. Upon learning that another deputy had the key to the door, the mob smashed the door down and took the prisoner out.

A car was commandeered, and the wounded man was tied by his heels to the automobile and dragged by six churches in the colored district, where services were in progress. He was then dragged along the Missouri Pacific Railroad tracks, and then cut loose.

FEB 7 - 1942

For several minutes, the crowd stood watching him. Then an elderly man in overalls walked up and poured gasoline over the body, to which a younger man dropped a lighted match. According to Prosecutor Blanton he has not been able to learn the identity of these two men.

Wright's "Confession"

Before his death, Wright had served a sixty-day jail sentence for theft of a revolver and a sentence in the Missouri penitentiary for burglary. His confession stated: "I guess I was just full of bad whiskey."

The white woman told relatives that Wright had entered her bedroom and said, "Oh, there's two of you here tonight. Keep your mouths shut, or I'll kill you both!"

The other woman was a sister-in-law, who escaped and called for help.

Investigation Will Be No Formal Gesture, Says Mo. Executive.
Delegation of 35 Is Received at Executive Mansion.
Sikeston Paper Says It Approves Lynching.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Congress Gets Strong Appeal From Mitchell

FEB 7 - 1942

Prosecutor Says 10 Members of Mob Have Been Named

(Special to the Star-News)

WASHINGTON.—Two weeks have elapsed since a mob of 300 blood-thirsty "aristocrats" at Sikeston, Mo., burned Cleo Wright at the stake, but up to late Wednesday not a single arrest had been announced despite the fact that practically every participant is well known to the authorities.

Tomb-like silence has gripped the Capital except the brief but direct and forceful words delivered by Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell from the floor of the House last Wednesday. President Roosevelt, in the face of a veritable avalanche of messages of protest, has issued no public statement.

FEB 7 - 1942

In his speech, Mr. Mitchell said: "I wish to call attention to the lynching of a Negro in the State of Missouri last Sunday morning at the very moment when Negro soldiers under General MacArthur were fighting and dying to hold the American line in the Philippines.

"I wish to say to this Congress that the American Negro has earned and serves better than he is getting from this Government and in our commercial and industrial set up. How long will the Negro be denied equal protection and equal opportunity under our laws and in our country which he loves and defends with his life."

In Missouri, following a mass meeting sponsored by the local branch of the N. A. A. C. P., a resolution was adopted recommending that Governor Donnell suspend and relieve of their duties State Highway Policeman Melvin Dace, Scott County sheriff, and Prosecuting Attorney David Blanton for their failure to act against the lynchers of Wright.

While it is generally agreed that under existing State and Federal laws, the President and the Attorney General's office are without any direct jurisdiction over a lynching which occurs without in the boundaries of a single State, yet it is believed the Sikeston affair, happening at a time when the international situation makes the race issue a grave one, demands that Mr. Roosevelt speak out in condemnation of the Missouri terrorists. Some such action is needed to sustain the morale of colored people, not only in the United States, but of those throughout the world, who are fighting on the side of the United Nations.

FEB 7 - 1942

One leader, who has been urging colored people to buy United States Defense Bonds, said his task isn't being made any easier by the continued silence of our officials here.

SIKESTON, Mo. — Prosecuting Attorney David E. Blanton announced that he has established identity of eight or 10 members of the mob which killed Wright, and asks that the grand jury be convened to hear the evidence. His request will be acted upon by Circuit Judge J. C. McDowell, of Charleston, who announced his willingness to call a grand jury when the Scott County Circuit Court opens at Benton, March 2.

6844

37a-1942

MISSOURI

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Drop Lynching Probe Or Face Race Riot, Is Sikeston, Mo., Threat

MAR 1 - 194

ST. LOUIS Mo., Feb. 19—White citizens in Sikeston will not testify against each other in any prosecution for guilt in the lynching of Cleo Wright there January 25, and they use the threat of a race riot to prevent further investigation and publicity.

These facts came out in an investigation for and report to the NAACP made last week by Mr. and Mrs. L. Benoist Thompkins of this city who spent 24 hours in Sikeston four days after the lynching, questioning leading whites in the community and leading Negroes in Sunset Addition, the Negro ghetto.

Mob Was "Just Folks"

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"Along with this feeling runs a genuine fear of the Negro's physical violence. 'Negroes are naturally vicious,' they said, 'with less control over their emotions.' It follows that 'violence is necessary to keep them subservient: It also follows that killing a Negro is not a crime like killing a white man, because the Negro is closer to brute than an independent human individual with human rights. There is a carry-over of feeling in Sikeston today that goes back to the old-time southern idea that 'every white man had to have several colored girls, and kill one nigger, before he became a man indeed'.".

The investigators said: 'We were given the definite impression that the lynchers would not be ostracized by the community; on the other hand those who might testify against the lynchers would be ostracized. Even the most liberal man to whom we spoke said that had he witnessed the crime (which he had not) he would 'not be inclined to testify'." MAR 1 - 1942

Negroes themselves are afraid to identify any of the mob even though they saw the entire proceedings and know those responsible.

One man in the Sunset Addition on being questioned by the Thompkinses was terrified and said he would not talk "to white folks." "We did not ask him to talk," the investigators stated, "because it is clear he does not have police protection in Sikeston." MAR 1 - 19

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The report also revealed that the lynching of Cleo Wright was not an isolated incident, but that tension had been growing over a period of time. Feeling had been growing that Negroes were getting "too cocky." MAR 1 - 1942

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The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

St. Louis Parade Protests Lynching

FEB 25 1942

Negro-White Demonstration Calls on Gov't, State to Act on Sikeston

FEB 25 1942

(Special to the Daily Worker)

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 24.—Protesting the recent brutal lynching of Cleo Wright, a Negro, in Sikeston, a parade of more than 100 automobiles and trucks representing several Negro and white organizations wound its way through downtown streets here last Sunday.

Hundreds of spectators lining sidewalks made their support of the main slogan, "Stop Lynching," obvious by their reactions.

Thousands of petitions to President Roosevelt and to Congress urging immediate passage of the anti-lynching bill were circulated prior to and during the parade.

The parade was sponsored by the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People with the active support of several outstanding organizations. FEB 25 1942

The parade was led by the Drum and Bugle Corps of the 19th Ward.

Other slogans borne by paraders included "Remember Pearl Harbor But Don't Forget Sikeston" and "Pass the Anti-Lynching Bill."

AFL UNION IN PARADE

Prominent in the parade was Local 59 of the International Molders and Foundry Workers Union, AFL. The Local's contingent bore this slogan: "Unite for Victory—Jim Crowism is Un-American."

Earlier the local at a general membership meeting endorsed an Open Letter to Governor Forrest Donnell urging "speedy and decisive action" against the Sikeston lynchers." FEB 25 1942

The letter described the lynching as "brutal, uncivilized and fascist."

"The identity of many of the leaders and participants of the mob is known," the letter said. "Why are these persons still at large?"

The unionists pointed out that "it is also from this part of the State (Sikeston) that there have come lurid stories of the persecution and hounding of sharecroppers, the running out of town of the duly authorized representatives of the American labor movement, both AFL and CIO, by armed and gangster-like 'vigilantes.' FEB 25 1942

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Sikeston Still Not Ashamed

MAR 20 1942

Lynch Town Paper Says Jury Right In Blaming No-One

MAR 20 1942

SIKESTON, Mo. — Some of the people of Sikeston, including the editor of the Sikeston Standard, daily paper here, still are not ashamed of the lynching which occurred here Sunday, January 25.

While the rest of Missouri hangs its head in shame, the editor of the "Polecat" column says in effect, "We did it once and we can do it again."

The 'Polecat" column, which appears on the front page of the twice-a-week Standard is headed by the picture of a polecat with the title, "The P. C. Editor Says." It is written by C. L. Blanton, editor of the Sikeston Standard, and relative of David E. Blanton, prosecuting attorney at Sikeston.

Speaking of the grand jury's failure to return an indictment against the members of the mob which dragged Cleo Wright over the streets of Sikeston and then burned him to death, the "Polecat" editor says in the March 13 issue of the paper:

MAR 20 1942

"The grand jury in session at Benton, Tuesday, failed to bring any indictments against anyone for the finish given to Cleo Wright some weeks ago. This was no doubt a shock to Editor Denman, Fannie Cook and others of the "best elements," whatever they are, but to those of us who believe in swift justice to any brute, white or black, who enters our homes with intent to assault our women folks, the grand jury did the right thing."

"Wright is dead and buried, and the best thing the "best element" and St. Louis Negroes can do is keep their mouths shut if they don't want to start a real race war. We are still a strong southerner."

MAR 20 1942

Another paragraph says: "Congratulations to the Scott county grand jury for not forcing indictments in the late lynching without sufficient evidence to convict. It saved the county many costs, and the best thing to do now is let the incident die, until some other Negro attempts another such brutal crime when prompt action will be taken to insure swift justice."

The Scott county grand jury called to investigate the lynching of Cleo Wright returned no true bills Tuesday, March 10, saying that it found insufficient evidence to accuse anyone of mob action.

The full grand jury report read: "We, the grand jury, find insufficient evidence to return a true bill in the matter of the mob activity in Sikeston on January 25, 1942. We desire to compliment the State Highway Patrol and the county officials for their work in connection with the mob action in Sikeston on January 25, 1942."

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Eye Witness Tells Of Burning Horror

MAR

(Here's the eyewitness' account of a white man, who watched the lynching of Cleo Wright Sunday in Sikeston, Mo., a town of 9,000 persons, nearly half of them colored. For obvious reasons, his name is withheld. This belated story comes just as the case is whitewashed by the local authorities.)

SIKESTON, Mo.—If I were colored, I'd leave this place immediately and go to Chicago or New York to work against lynching for the rest of my life.

But I am fairly comfortable here. I run a clothing store which is paying nice dividends right now, so I can't reveal who I am but I am perfectly willing for decent people everywhere to get a fair and complete picture of what happened when they lynched Cleo Wright.

MAR 28 1942

As a result of what I saw, I'm going to suggest that colored people, from now on, use this slogan: "Remember Sikeston, Missouri," instead of Remember Pearl Harbor.

Those fellows, between 600 and 700 men, took the poor guy out of City Hall at noon Sunday and dragged him all over darktown before pouring gasoline over his blood-drenched body and setting it afire.

I never saw such a sight in my life. At times, when the fellow's body was being dragged, the car's driver raced along at 70 miles an hour.

It looked like they poured five gallons of gas on him before starting the torch. At least, I know they used a 5-gallon can. Not a single colored man dared to leave his home or place of business while this was going on.

MAR 28 1942

None of the funeral establishments (colored) would accept the body afterward because they feared the mob's return. I don't know what happened to the body in the end. I heard later that, after the burning, it was packed in a sack, covered with acid and then dumped into a hole outside town.

MOB VICTIM'S WIDOW GETS REAL HELP

MAR 14 1942



There was happiness in the little two-room home once occupied by Cleo Wright, down in Sikeston, Mo., Tuesday, March 3, when his young widow, Mrs. Ardella Wright, an expectant mother, was given more than $200 in cash to help her in her dire need. Making the presentation was Mrs. Nannie Mitchell, wife of William E. Mitchell, business manager of the St. Louis Argus, who was responsible for the raising of this fund. Looking on approvingly is Constable Langston Harrison of St. Louis, widely known for his philanthropic activities.—(Photo by J. Von Chapman).

6845

37a-1942

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

MISSOURI

Sikeston Lynchers Sought to Block Negro-White Conference on Defense

JAN 29 1942

By Ralph Shaw
(Special to the Daily Worker)

SIKESTON, Mo., Jan. 28.—Only a few days before a landowner mob of 700 tortured and burned Cleo Wright, Negro cotton-oil plant worker—progressive forces had planned a conference of Negro and whites in this area to discuss how best Negroes could participate equally in civilian and national defense. JAN 29 1942

Further background on the murder is illuminated by the recent CIO inroads in organizing Negro and white workers in cotton-gin and seed-oil plants. Other progressive organizations here have also been fighting to improve the lot of the Negro and white sharecroppers.

Tonight two hundred Negro families from this town are wandering the backroads hereabouts, with fear in their hearts, uprooted from their homes and without money in their pockets. JAN 29 1942

The victim was lynched last Sunday when he was dragged out of the Sikeston jail, tied to an automobile and dragged through the streets of "Sunset," the Negro community of the town, at sixty miles an hour. He was tortured with blow-torch. Finally some of the mobsters poured gasoline over his pain-wracked body and put a match to it.

A body blow was struck to the growing Negro and white unity in this nation against the common fascist foe, and this unity is growing as never before in this area.

The lynching climaxed the growing terror against poor whites and Negroes in this area which is known as the "Bootheel" of Missouri. Here "king cotton" rules with the aid of the Ku Klux Klan, corrupt public officials and the whip.

This is the scene of the evictions three winters ago when the Rev. Owen Whitfield, of the United Agricultural, Cannery and Allied Products Workers (CIO) led a great roadside demonstration against the wealthy landlords.

The lynching of Cleo Wright is no isolated incident. In recent weeks, the following events have occurred: JAN 29 1942

1. The Lions Club of Charleston, Mo., 20 miles away, opened a campaign against a plan worked out by the UCAPAWA and the Federal Resettlement Administration to resettle Negro sharecroppers on land in East Prairie, which adjoins Charleston. JAN 29 1942

2. The automobile of a white organizer for the CIO United Shoe Workers organizing white shoe workers in Sikeston, was destroyed by vigilantes.

3. Meetings of Negro sharecroppers in Caruthersville, 40 miles away, were broken up by vigilantes.

4. Threats have been made against CIO forces organizing Negro workers in the cotton gins and seed oil mills of the Bootheel.

5. A few days before the lynching, progressive forces of Missouri had been planning a Negro and whites Conference to discuss united aid in civilian and national defense in this and neighboring communities. JAN 29 1942

IMMEDIATE PROTESTS

Protests against the lynching of Wright were immediate and widespread. Gov. Forest C. Donnell issued a statement in which he condemned the lynching and demanded a full investigation to bring to justice those who were responsible. He also sent state highway police to see that there was no further disorder.

First to condemn the lynching and place the blame where it belongs was the Communist Party of Missouri which issued the following statement:

"The Communist Party of Missouri condemns the brutal lynching of a Negro at Sikeston, Missouri, as an act of vicious Hitlerism which endangers the National Unity of our country, and sabotages all that is being done to defeat Hitler and Hitlerism.

"The very interests of National defense of our country against the menace of bloodthirsty Nazism demands the speedy and thorough prosecution of those responsible.

"The Communist Party declares that this Hitlerite lynching is not an isolated incident in the life of the Missouri Bootheel. It is part of a concerted campaign on the part of wealthy plantation owners who want to terrorize the Negro and white sharecroppers, and disrupt their efforts to organize for better conditions which are absolutely indispensable for Southeast Missouri if it is to give its all for National Defense. JAN 29 1942

"The Communist Party is gratified to read the announcement that Governor Donnell has ordered a speedy and thorough investigation. We respectfully suggest to the Governor that an investigating committee of Negro and white citizens be set up to investigate not only this case, but the whole campaign of terror, intimidation and discrimination being carried on against the Negro people in our State."

A great mass meeting is planned in St. Louis for Sunday by the National Association for Advancement of Colored People to organize a statewide campaign. Other progressive groups, both Negro and white, as well as AFL and CIO unions are expected to participate.

Telegrams of protests were pouring in from all over Missouri to County Prosecutor David E. Blanton and the Sikeston police chief who were on the scene and did nothing to stop the lynching.

Although Blanton asserts that he talked to the mob for more than two hours in an effort to dissuade them from lynching Wright, he said that he failed to recognize a single person in the mob or any of its leaders. JAN 29 1942

The Assistant Police Chief said he had gone to lunch—at 10 o'clock in the morning—when the mob attacked the flimsy Sikeston jail and dragged Wright out.

The lynching was carefully planned. Expensive automobiles of plantation owners from all over the "Bootheel" weer seen pouring into Sikeston for some time before and after the lynching.

As one observer pointed out, practically all of the mob were well-dressed and of middle-age although there were some young people.

'KINDNESS'

Wright was seized in a lavatory in the women's section of the little jail. This room had a thin wooden door and no bars. The police officials and Blanton said he had been placed in this room "out of kindness."

This "kindness" came after he was almost dead from three bullet wounds shot from the gun of Police Patrolman Hess Berrigan who arrested him. Wright had been taken to a hospital but was later transferred to the jail and in Blanton's own words, "he was too weak to stand up." JAN 29 1942

Blanton who has said that he would submit the facts of the lynching to Circuit Court and let it determine whether there should be a gand jury investigation, was resentful of Gov. Donnell calling the lynching a "disgraceful blot on the state of Missouri" and sneered at the governor's demand for a thorough investigation.

The terror with which the lynching struck Sikeston's Negro colony of almost 3,000 drove 200 families from the district by Sunday afternoon.

Left in Sikeston and other "Bootheel" Negro shack communities are families who face not only terror and discrimination but the most abject poverty. JAN 29 1942

And because the CIO concentration in the South is bringing these people a new ray of hope, the landlords and shoe barons have intensified vigilanteism.

The lynching focuses a spotlight on conditions in "Sunset," Sikeston's Negro community. Crowded into semi-rural slums that make Harlem's worst seem spacious, these Negroes have been denied defense jobs, barred from all participation in civilian defense and are now terrorized by mob murder. The community is realizing however that such Jim-Crowism weakens the whole fight against Hitler.

In addition to their horrible housing, unemployment and poverty, the Negroes are denied educational and social rights.

White trade unionists were aroused by the lynching. They see that the terror comes from the same people and has the same aim as those who were responsible for destroying the automobile of a shoe workers' organizer.

The AFL which has organized workers in several sawmills in this vicinity realizes the menace of the fast developing vigilante movement.

The discrimination against Negroes has been apparent not only in the "Bootheel" but in larger communities such as St. Louis where recently it was learned that Negro workers had been barred from jobs on a U. S. housing project for their own people. JAN 29 1942

This, as the Communist Party of Missouri has pointed out, not only endangers the welfare of the entire state and particularly of the workers and farmers, but it is disrupting unity when Missouri, because of its inland location and its resources, is rapidly becoming one of the nation's most important defense centers and is likely to become even more important as the threat of invasion grows on the two coasts.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Missouri's Shame!

JAN 30 1942

Sikeston, down in southeast Missouri, has given the state the unenviable distinction of being the first to have a lynching in 1942. An already apprehended prisoner, who was awaiting trial was the victim. The mob chose Sunday to perform its bloody beastly ritual. It dragged his body through the streets of the Negro section, then set it afire.

The mere statement of what happened condemns it. But Sikeston will not punish the lynchers. Southeast Missouri has no conception of human fellowship, else it would not have piled up a record of peonage, of gerrymandering Negro families to escape educating Negro children and of such treatment of sharecroppers that Washington had to intervene. No, Sikeston will not punish these lynchers. But Missouri cannot sit quiet in its shame.

Governor Donnell has acted with commendable promptness in asking the local authorities to take action. The state supports his request, because it has in it many white men and women who, whatever their race prejudice, are too decent to kill a human being and burn his body, too fair to drag his bloody remains through a neighborhood, as

though his neighbors were responsible for his misdeeds. JAN 30 1942

Missouri once attempted to curb the lyncher. It was at the time of the Maryville lynching whose victim was a half-wit, known to be not responsible for his acts. Public opinion was not behind the move, though two previous lynchings of innocent men, one at Columbia and another at Excelsior Springs, were a warning against mob justice.

There is now no adequate legislation for the sake of protecting Negroes' lives. But Missouri, made aware of its impotence in the case of lynching, may make this occurrence the occasion for correcting its procedure and compel units within it to respect its authority.

We fear the evil doers will go unpunished because in Missouri a judicial district has such autonomy that it can do pretty much as it pleases. Unfortunately also race prejudice is so entrenched in Missouri custom that it is difficult to put principle in effect where Negroes are concerned. Injustice to them is easy, any old excuse being sufficient. That is why "attempted" rape is charged in many a case, though the fact that detail is not given is proof positive that it is only an excuse. Pure savagery, not even a badly conceived attempt at justice, inspired the orgy of Sunday. JAN 30 1942

Naturally Negroes express bitterness at this Sikeston savagery. With good reason they say what means democracy, law, or fairplay in America when an accusation against a Negro brings summary punishment, and terror for his people, where the same crime by a white man is left to the courts, and treated as the act of an individual?

The consolation is that there are only a few spots like southeast Missouri. Even in the deep South where lynching used to be rampant, today law-abiding citizens have caused the processes of the law to supercede drum head convictions by mob. For this movement to go on and on until the law wipes out lynchers entirely, calls for common sense on the part of our race as well as among whites. We must stop blaming them for these lynchers just as we ask that they stop holding all of us responsible for our wrong doers. The truth is any man withdraws with horror from the savage capable of either rape or or lynching. The law should repress the one as it does already the other.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

750 LYNCH NEGRO MILL WORKER ON SCHOOL CAMPUS

JAN 31 1942

Governor Orders Lynchers Brought to Trial, Says, "It Matters Not How Guilty A Person May Be, He Is Entitled to A Trial In Court of Justice."

SIKESTON, Mo.—(Special)—A mob of more than 700 persons stormed the city jail here this past Sunday, seized a young Negro employed in a local cottonseed oil mill, burned his body after saturating it with gasoline, to enter Missouri in the lynching column of states for the first of the year.

Cleo Wright, 22, was lynched by the mob about nine hours after he had allegedly broken into the home of Mrs. Dillard Sturgeon, 30, white and cut her seriously in the abdomen when she is supposed to have resisted his advances. JAN 31 1942

The mob of blood-thirsty whites in this small town of 8,000 persons, thrust aside the guard placed around the prisoner, and, despite the plea of Prosecutor David Blanton to let the law take its course, broke into the jail, snatched the previously wounded and now unconscious man from his bed, and dragged him to a waiting automobile.

Dragged By Car

The victim was crammed into the trunk of the car and with the mob following, some of them women, the car sped to the four-block long Negro section of the city. There he was pulled from the trunk, tied with heavy ropes to the bumper of the car and his body dragged about the section for more than an hour. Cut loose later, he was saturated with gasoline and his body set afire, in the yard of the Negro school.

State patrolmen and deputies are now patrolling the Negro section to prevent a race riot or what was said might develop into a massacre of the 800 Negroes who live here.

Wright was caught near the Negro section after some one, allegedly a Negro, had entered the window of the Sturgeon home and attempted to rob the house. He is said to have stabbed the woman in the abdomen when she attempted to flee.

Wright is said to have stabbed the arresting officer who had chased him in a taxicab. The officer shot the man four times before he was subdued by other officers called to the scene.

Treated at the hospital, Wright was removed to his home under guard, there being no provision at the hospital for Negroes. His wife is said to have requested his removal to the city jail for "safekeeping" after rumors of the mob had reached her ears.

No Police Protection JAN 31 194

Guards stationed at the jail told reporters they did not shoot into the mob before the jail for "fear of hitting some innocent persons." After the lynching, the mob roamed the streets of the district for hours until Governor Donnell dispatched state patrolmen to the scene with strict orders to keep the whites from the Negro section.

Following the burning of the man, the mob departed, leaving the body lying in the street for a few hours. until removed in a city dump truck.

A rigid investigation has been ordered by the governor, who promises quick punishment for those found guilty by the grand jury which is to act in the case termed a "disgraceful blot on the state of Missouri."

Pleas for Justice

Governor Donnell in his statement following the incident said: "Regardless of how guilty a person may be, he is entitled to a fair trial in a court of justice. Cleo Wright was not an exception to this rule. The action of today's mob in taking law into its own hands is a disgraceful blot on the state of Missouri. Every possible effort must be made to bring to justice all who took part in this cruel violence." JAN 31 194

Prosecutor Blanton told the governor's investigators that the chief problem of a grand jury would be identification of members of the mob although pictures of the mob were published in St. Louis papers.

This was the third lynching in Missouri in the past 11 years. Unofficial records place the total lynchings of the state to 24, since 1900, but there have been 91 since 1889.

Argus
St. Louis, Missou

Fund for Mob Widow

JAN 31 1942

Moved by the pitiful plight of Mrs. Ardella Wright, 18-year-old expectant mother and widow of Wright, mob victim, Mrs. Nanie Mitchell, wife of William Mitchell, President of the St. Louis Argus Publishing Co., has begun a fund to aid her. The Mitchell's journeyed to the scene with an Argus staff writer and photographer and saw the deploruble condition of the innocent sufferer.

Those interested in helping may mail or bring contributions to the Ardella Wright Fund, St. Louis Argus, 2312 Market St. The names of all donors and the amount they give will be carried in the Argus.

37a-1942
New York Age
New York, N. Y.

NEW YORK

6846

GRIST FOR AXIS PROPAGANDA

OCT 24 1942

THE SUNDAY LYNCHING of two 14-year old Negro youths near Meridian, Miss., for an alleged attempt assault on a white girl is as grisley a story as the Sikeston, Mo., lynching of a year ago. The added horror of the situation was that under legal proceedings in most other sections of the country the only charge that could have been lodged against the youths was that of juvenile delinquency, for they were not successful in the attack. According to newspaper reports, they attempted to waylay a 13-year old girl but she escaped and later reported the incident to her parents.

If Axis powers are seeking an approach to stir up discontent among Negroes in this country, they can find no better material than such affairs as the Meridian lynching and the failure of local authorities to identify and bring the lynchers to trial. This complete breakdown in local law enforcement —the failure of the jailer to protect his prisoner and his failure to act in identifying the lynchers—is reason enough for the federal government to step in and take over the prosecution.

OCT 24 1942

Prompt and firm action in this matter by Attorney General Biddle and the Department of Justice would do much to reassure the Negro soldiers and their families that the federal government means to see to it that they are given the full protection of the law.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Reveal Texas Lynching Carried Out in Secret

MAR 13 1942

BROOKSHIRE, Texas. — A secret lynching, one which never reached publication in the daily newspapers, was uncovered here this week. Howard Wilpitz is said to have been the mob's victim.

According to the story brought to light, Wilpitz was ordered out of Brookshire (35 miles from Houston) by Constable Fritz Abel. The two men had words and Abel is said to have whipped Wilpitz over the head with his pistol.

MAR 13 1942

The constable was joined by Night Watchman Hope Cooper and the two attempted to search Wilpitz who then ran. Abel shot him in the leg, the story goes. Wilpitz is said to have shot back and was successful in knocking Abel's gun from his hand.

Abel and Cooper then ran for aid and are said to have gathered a mob with high-powered rifles. The mob surrounded Wilpitz in a toilet behind a Negro lodge building. The toilet was riddled with bullets and Wilpitz fell out of the small building. The mob is said to has shot him more after he was on the ground.

The Negro citizens of this small town 35 miles from Houston were threatened into silence. The lynching is said to have occurred in the afternoon of February 21. The body of Wilpitz was held for a week and then was buried secretly with no funeral. MAR 13 1942

Negroes were not permitted to see the body. The victim's wife was informed of the killing by two white women. She never saw her husband's body.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

WHITES HOLD SECRET BURIAL FOR VICTIM

MAR 15 1942

HOUSTON, Texas, Mar. 12 — (ANP Wire)—The suppressed story of a lynching at Brookshire, which is 35 miles from here, was revealed today when news leaked out that a colored man had been beaten with a pistol, his body riddled with rifle bullets and lynched on February 21.

Howard Wilpitz was the victim. The trouble started when the constable, Frizt Abel, ordered him from Brookshire. Just to emphasize his order the constable struck Wilpitz on the head with his pistol. The night watchman, Hope Cooper, joined the constable and both tried to search Wilpitz.

Wilpitz ran away from the man and the constable shot him in the leg. Wilpitz returned the fire and knocked the constable's gun from his hand.

Officers Form Mob

The constable and the watchman fled and summoned a mob. Wilpitz sought protection in a toilet behind the Negro Lodge building. By this time a mob which consisted of a large number of Texas crackers with high powered rifles gathered around the building. They riddled the toilet and Wilpitz with bullets. The victim fell out of the toilet, and according to Editor Carter Wesley of the Houston Informer, the mob members riddled his body with bullets as he lay prostrate upon the ground.

Body Held a Week

The Houston editor said that Negroes were "intimidated into silence" and not a daily newspaper carried the story.

The body was held for a full week, Wesley said, and even the wife (Olivia Jacobs) of the victim was denied the opportunity to see her husband's body. She was informed of the lynching by two white women.

The lynchers were said to have feared the possibility of the government making an investigation into the lynching and so took precautious steps to prevent any information from leaking out as to the incident.

Not Allowed to View Body

Wesley said that no Negroes were allowed to see the body and the white folks conducted a secret burial.

The Chicago Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People notified the Department of Justice and U. S. Attorney Francis Biddle Wednesday about the incident and asked for a full and complete invesigation, said Ulysses S. Keys, administrative secretary.

Sikeston Lynching

MAR 13 1942

The Texas lynching renews the memory of the Sikeston, Mo., cruel lynching when Cleo Wright was burned to death on the school yard of that little Missouri town on January 25, 1942. A routine investigation of the lynching was made and on Tuesday the grand jury announced that it had found insufficient evidence to indict.

Have Pictures

This fact comes with the knowledge that three reels of moving picture films were taken of the entire lynching. Out of the three one survived and was turned over to the County prosecutor whose father is the editor of a news sheet in that town which said that the lynching was justified and other people in the town may reap the same fate as Wright.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

They Did It Again

MAR 22 1942

ON February 21 a colored man was lynched in Texas. The news was suppressed. The public did not know about it until March. The wife and relatives of the dead man were not allowed to attend his funeral. As a matter of fact the white people buried the man and there were no colored mourners. We feel safe in saying that there were no white mourners at the bier.

The folks in Texas chose to suppress the news for reasons best known to themselves, although we can see a direct connection between their failure to reveal it and the investigation of the Sikeston lynching by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

These offenses against the colored people of this country must stop. They must not be tolerated by the government. The government is derelict in its duty if it fails to assure all citizens the democratic way of life of which a trial by jury is one of the prime essentials.

Congress has pussyfooted over an anti-lynching bill for more than a decade and about the only thing that has been accomplished was the malicious waste of time when southern senators waylaid the attempt and sabotaged its passage.

These are no times to abuse any group in this country. The nation must try to maintain unity among all races. It must not suffer or permit its most loyal people to become the object of attack by the majority group.

Congress now can well afford to pass an anti-lynching bill. With the Sikeston and the Texas lynchings and the Detroit violence it is obvious that the feelings aganst the colored people as evidenced by these occurrences give sharp warning that the government must be on its guard to protect the rights and privileges of colored Americans.

The anti-lynch bill ought to be made must legislation by the President who has only seen fit to speak of such a law when a white man was lynched.

We must have an anti-lynch law.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

HOLD SECRET BURIAL FOR MOB VICTIM

MAR 11 1942

Texan's Body Riddled With Bullets: Report

MAR 11 1942

By CARTER WESLEY

HOUSTON, Texas —(SNS) — The cruel lynching of Howard Wilpitz at Brookshire, Texas, some 35 miles from here, was revealed Tuesday by the victim's commonlaw wife, who along with other Negroes in the locality, had not been allowed to see the body.

MAR 11 1942

The lynching occurred on the afternoon of February 21, according to reports reaching Mrs. Wilpitz through two kindly white women.

Information was that an argument arose as Wilpitz was ordered from Brookshire by Constable Fritz Abel, who struck Wilpitz on the head with a pistol. Night Watchman Hope Cooper joined the constable in attempting to search Wilpitz. The colored men reported ran from the duo being shot in the leg as he did so. Wilpitz is then said to have reached for his gun and shot back, knocking Abel's gun from his hand. The white men took to their heels, gathered a mob and, armed with high-powered rifles, surrounded Wilpitz in a toilet behind the Negro lodge building.

BODY RIDDLED

The mob and the officers are said to have riddled the toilet and Wilpitz with bullets. As he fell out of the toilet dead, the lynchers are reported to have charged the body, further riddling it with shots.

Story of the lynching was suppressed. No Texas dailies carried the news. Negroes in the locality were intimidated into silence. They were not allowed to see the body. No funeral was held before the secret burial.

The lynch[illegible] the second revealed such occurrance during the current year.

New York, N. Y.

Texans Silence Town After Lynching Orgy

MAR 14 1942

(Special Correspondence)

BROOKSHIRE, Tex.—An infuriated and wild mob of Texas whites, led by this little town's only policeman, riddled a man with shotgun slugs and automatic rifle bullets here three weeks ago . . . and dared colored residents to talk about it.

The victim, 1942's second challenge to American democracy, was identified as Hojvers Wilpitz.

News of the [illegible] was suppressed by [illegible] newspaper in the Lo[illegible]tate, until a reporter [illegible]uston Informer (Ca[illegible] arrived in town Sunda[illegible] investigate. Had it not been [illegible], therefore, the world [illegible] probably still know noth[illegible] it.

Cop Leads the Mob

The lynch violence followed Wilpitz's arrest for failing to obey a "white man's command to leave town" on February 20. During an argument with Policeman Fritz Abel, the latter struck Wilpitz over the head with his revolver.

The prisoner tried to defend himself, and Hope Cooper, another white man, came over to help the officer search him. But Wilpitz broke away and ran towards the "colored section" of town.

Officer Abel fired at the fleeing man, a bullet striking him in the leg. Then Wilpitz turned suddenly and fired back, the bullet knocking the cop's revolver from his hand. The two white men apparently got scared and started running towards the "white section" of town, asking everybody they met to come and help place that "bad n———r under arrest."

MAR 14 1942

Soon the mob formed and a new search was started for Wilpitz, who sought safety in an "outhouse" behind Brookshire's "Lodge Building." The place was surrounded by the armed posse and Wilpitz was ordered out.

Secret Burial

Children living in the neighborhood screamed in terror and women kneeled in prayer as members of the mob lined up to start firing. The cursing men, some of them seemingly drunk, fired volley after volley of slugs and bullets until the boards to the "outhouse" fell off one by one.

Finally, Wilpitz's lifeless body toppled over. Some members of the mob walked nearer, to fire at close range. One man's rifle was held only three inches from the victim's head as 16 shots were fired in rapid succession.

As other members of the mob walked from house to house, warning colored residents not to talk "about this thing to them n———rs in Houston," many of the lynchers continued to fire bullets into Wilpitz's body.

Nobody was allowed to leave their homes until the victim's body was removed, one witness told reporters, while others maintained that the lynchers refused to let anybody move it for a week.

Then, it was removed to the outskirts of town where it was buried after being bundled in a sack containing lime and acid.

Chicago Defender
Chicago: Illinois

YNCH NEGRO TAKEN FROM HOSPITAL COT

kan Is Year's Second Mob Victim; Police Promise Probe

TEXARKANA, Texas—The un-reconstructed South chalked up another crime against humanity Sunday July 12, when the sick body of Willie Vinson, 25, was abducted from a hospital cot and hanged to a tree until dead. Vinson had been accused of attempting to rape a white woman.

The man was suffering from severe stomach wounds inflicted during his capture earlier Sunday and was confined to the Texarkana hospital when the kidnapping occurred.

He was dragged through the principal streets of the town behind a fast moving automobile and taken to Sunset, the colored residential section.

There Vinson was hauled to the loading platform of a cotton gin, where a rope was tied about his neck. His body was raised 20 feet in the air and allowed to swing downward so that the neck could be broken.

According to the hospital's night superintendent three men entered the institution and illegally seized the mob victim despite his groans of protest. Outside the trio was joined by the larger lawless gathering.

Everyone connected with the affair was said to have "escaped" before authorities arrived upon the scene.

Because of Vinson's previous wounds and the heinous treatment he received after his abduction, it was generally believed he was already dead by the time the hanging took place.

Monroe Watts, county sheriff was reported planning an investigation of the lynching, but stated he could not learn the identity of any one connected with the lynching.

The lynching of Vinson was the second such recorded happening since this country entered the war for democracy.

Last March a mob at Sikeston, Mo. snuffed out the life of Cleo Wright accused of the attempted rape of a white woman.

This is the home state of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, now leading the American forces in Australia.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Amter Says:

Texas Lynching Act of Treason

The following statement was issued by Israel Amter, State Chairman of the Communist Party, in connection with the lynching of William Vinson at Texarkana, Texas:

"The mob lynching of William Vinson at Texarkana, Tex., follows upon the legal lynching of Odell Waller in the State of Virginia. Both flow out of the shameless system of national oppression of the Negro people. When will these crimes against the Negro people come to an end? When will the Anti-Lynch Bill be enacted? When will the Anti-Poll Tax Bill be enacted? When will the discrimination against the Negro people, as proclaimed by the President in Executive Order, come to an end?

"The time is now!

"No nation can be drawn fully into the war effort if the rights of a section of its people are trampled under foot. The Negroes want to serve their country the same as the rest of the population. They hate Hitler as no other group does.

"The lynching of William Vinson is an act of treason against the nation. The people must urge the President to adopt such measures as will put an end to these dastardly crimes against the Negro people, and instruct the Department of Justice to ferret out the mobsters and see that they receive full punishment.

"All white progressive must unite with the Negro people in the demand for equal rights for the Negro people and an immediate end to all Jim Crow, segregation and discrimination, and that lynching be rooted out."

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

NEGRO LYNCHED BY MOB

Texarkana, Tex., Victim Was a Suspect in Attempted Assault

TEXARKANA, Texas, July 13 (U.P.)—Willie Vinson, 25 years old, a Negro who was accused of attempted criminal assault, was lynched today by a mob which dragged him behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged him from a cotton-gin winch.

The police said that Vinson, who was critically shot during his capture Sunday, may have died before he was hanged. Mrs. Margaret Mullin, night supervisor, reported Vinson's abduction from the Texarkana Hospital by three men who took him to an automobile. The police said that this car apparently was joined by two others loaded with twelve men, and that the three vehicles stopped a mile from the hospital to tie Vinson to one, and then continued to the cotton gin at the edge of the city.

Vinson was accused of attempting to attack Mrs. Jayson Talley, 22, wife of a war plant worker in the cabin trailer where Mrs. Talley was asleep with her infant.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Vinson Lyncher Known-But Free

TEXARKANA, Tex. (UP)—Willie Vinson, 25-year-old Negro, was dragged from a hospital bed and lynched July 12. Although the identity of one of the lynching mob's leaders is known, no arrests had been made by July 16. Sheriff Monroe Watts was so unconcerned that he left the state on a vacation July 15.

Before being hanged from a cotton-gin winch outside Texarkana, Vinson was tied to an automobile and dragged through the streets. He already had a bullet wound in the stomach, received when the mob attacked him in a cafe where he worked as a dishwasher. He was shot when he tried to defend himself with a knife.

Vinson was attacked after an unknown Negro tried to attack a white woman who was asleep with her 18-month-old son in a trailer. She could not identify Vinson as her assailant.

After lynching Vinson, the mob marched through the Negro section firing shots into homes. In a general campaign of terror, Negroes were denied the right to conduct church services or hold meetings.

Although only three of the mob entered the hospital and they were not masked, the nurses said they could not identify them. Nor did they raise any cry for help. They notified Watts but he got to the lynching scene only in time to claim Vinson's body.

Before leaving on his vacation the sheriff said he had no clues as to who the lynchers were.

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

'We Needed a Good Lynching,' Texas Mobster Declares

Drag 25-Year-Old Wounded Victim Through Streets Behind Automobile

By REUBEN RITCHIE

(Editor's Note: Reuben Ritchie is not the name of the writer of this eye-witness story of Monday morning's lynching of a Negro in Texarkana, Texas. The writer, for obvious reasons, has passed as a white man for many years; he is prominent in business and social circles in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas, and is the son of a wealthy white cotton planter and a colored woman.)

TEXARKANA, Texas (Special).—"This town's been needin' a good lynchin' for a long time. We gotta keep these damned niggers from gettin' too uppity, an' besides, the dirty nigger was guilty." The speaker was a white man, ragged, unkempt and foul-smelling, as though he had been sleeping all night in a corral.

He had just left the scene of the lynching of Willie Vinson, 25-year-old colored youth, taken in a dying condition from Texarkana Hospital at 12:32 A. M. Monday and, eight minutes later, strung up to a cotton gin winch on Factory Street by a mob of over 50 whites, 20 of whom traveled in three automobiles.

I walked along with the man for a block or so, stifling the inclination to shoot him down in cold blood, like they had lynched the Negro boy. I was angry because, right in the midst of a war for democracy and at a time when the Federal Government is leaning over backward to give captured Axis spies and saboteurs the full protection of the law, cowardly lynchers, like skulking rats, could run rampant in open defiance of all the rules of decency and fairness and nothing done about it.

Crying Babies

He turned off into the shadows of a side street. Men and women, bile from the slum areas around the tracks, others well-to-do and high in the political and social life of this teeming city that is the focal point of four States, were hurrying past me to the 200 block on Factory Street, which is on the outskirts of the city, to view the body. Some wore trousers and coats pulled hastily over their pajamas; women carrying crying babies in their arms and scantily clad, slithered through the hot, sultry night on their way to the scene. I heard strange comment as they passed; comment not so strange, however, when it is realized that this town is, as the song says, "Deep in the Heart of Texas."

"The nigger tried to rape a white woman." . . . "Wish I had been there when they dragged the black b—— from out of the hospital." . . . "These niggers gotta learn that white folks won't stand 'em puttin' their black han's on white women." . . . "Yeah, nigger oughta be lynched for even thinkin' about a white woman."

"You shore they got th' right nigger?" . . . "What in hell is the difference? Nigger is a nigger an' the woman says he looked like the one that tried to grab her."

Dragged Victim

At 12:32 three men entered the front door of the hospital, walked quickly past Margaret Mullin, the night supervisor, who said she was talking on the telephone when they came in, rushed to the basement steps nearby and a moment later came out dragging their moaning, half-dead victim with them. The Negro had been put in an emergency bed in the basement when he was brought to the hospital earlier Sunday night.

They left by way of the emergency ambulance drive, dragging Vinson along on the pavement. They dumped him into the car that had no license plates. A fourth man at the wheel started up the machine and the car sped out of the ambulance drive onto West Sixth Street, where two other cars joined it. The lynching mob drove west on West Sixth to Spruce, then south to West Third, where they turned west again.

They drove across the Third Street tracks, swung into South Lelia and then into the Stygian darkness of Phenie Avenue. They stopped the cars in close formation and pitched the still twitching body of Vinson to the ground. One of the mob tied a rope around Vinson's neck and tied the other end to the bumper of the car which had taken him from the hospital. Then the party was on its way again.

This time the party swung north off Phenie onto Factory Street, dragging Vinson, whose body had slid on its back during the several hundred yards, then rolled over and over as the lead car swung the S-turn before driving into the grounds of the Texarkana Cotton Oil Corporation plant in the 100-200 block on Factory.

Unfastened Rope

The cars stopped beside a tree and some of the men got out. They unfastened the rope from the car and then started to swing the other end over a tree limb, but at this point one of the mobsters saw the winch on the loading platform of the gin and they decided to string Vinson up on the winch. Working with the speed of a crew of paratroopers, busily defending their country, the hoodlums climbed on the loading platform to tie the rope to the winch. Then they slowly pulled the body almost to the top. Satisfied that Vinson was tied up securely, the cars and the killers sped away.

The lynching was a miracle of speed. It compared with the German occupation of certain areas in Poland and with the speed which the Nazis used in avenging the killing of Reinhardt Heydrich in Prague. It was 12:32 when he was dragged from the hospital and it was 12:40 when he was hung from the gin winch. Vinson was actually dead, I was told, when he was strung up, but he was still alive when he was dragged from the hospital basement and tied to the automobile.

Mrs. Mullin, night supervisor at the hospital, called police headquarters and Sheriff Monroe Watts and his "brave" men got to the scene in about 10 minutes. The sheriff and a Bowie County coroner rushed to the gin winch and cut down the body. Here is Sheriff Watts' statement:

Black Mark

"Lynching is a terrible, gruesome thing and a definite black mark against a city in which it takes place." He went on to say that his department was "making a thorough investigation" into the affair. He said he learned of the attempted assault on a white woman, for which Vinson was victimized several hours after it happened Sunday, but he failed to have Vinson's room in the basement guarded because he was not certain Vinson attempted to rape Mrs. Jayson Talley, 22-year-old wife of a war plant worker, and had not filed charges against him.

Shot in Stomach

Sheriff Watts said guards at the Red River Ordnance Depot placed Vinson in the Texarkana hospital soon after G. L. Roberts, a winch truck driver at the depot, shot the colored youth in the stomach in an attempt to force him to return to the white woman's trailer home where he had planned obviously to give the woman "every chance to identify him."

Mrs. Talley, the sheriff and Deputy Bill Watlington went to the hospital Sunday, where she said Vinson "strongly resembled" the man who at 1:30 A. M. Sunday had dragged her from her trailer home and threatened to kill her and her 19-month-old child if she didn't give in. Her screams brought rescuers to the scene. Several men went to Harvell's Cafe on Highway 82 and it was there that Roberts shot young Vinson in the stomach.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
July 14, 1942

Negro Lynched As Assault Suspect

TEXARKANA, TEXAS, July 13.—(U.P.)—Willie Vinson, 25, negro accused of attempted criminal assault, was lynched today by a mob which dragged him behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged him from a cotton gin winch.

Police said Vinson, who was suffering abdominal gun-shot wounds inflicted during his capture Sunday, may have died before he was hanged.

Mrs. Margaret Mullin, night supervisor, reported Vinson's abduction from the Texarkana Hospital by three men about 12:30 Sunday morning. The three took the moaning Vinson to a waiting automobile, she said.

Police said the abduction car apparently was joined by two others loaded with 12 men, and that three cars stopped a mile from the hospital to tie Vinson to one and then continued to the cotton gin at the edge of the city.

Columbia, S. C., State
July 14, 1942

Texas Negro Lynched; No Clues Found

Texarkana, Texas, July 13—(AP)—Sheriff Monroe Watts said today that he had made no arrests and had no clues in connection with the lynching early today of Willie Vinson, 25-year-old Negro suspected of attempted criminal attack upon a white woman.

Watts said Vinson was taken from a hospital by a group of men and hanged to a winch at a cotton gin outside the city. He said the condition of the Negro's body indicated it had been dragged behind an automobile before being hanged.

Vinson was captured early Sunday morning in a cafe where he was employed as a dishwasher. He had been tentatively identified by the woman involved.

The woman, wife of a worker in an ordnance plant, was reported dragged from her trailer camp bed early Sunday by a Negro who clasped his hand across her mouth. She was sleeping beside her 19-month-old son and her husband was at work.

6850

Negro Lynched After Attack On Woman In Cabin Trailer

"The Courier Journal" Louisville, Ky.

Texarkana, Texas, July 13 (U.P.) —Willie Vinson, 25, Negro, accused of attempted criminal assault, was lynched today by a mob which dragged him behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged him from a cotton gin winch.

Police said Vinson, who was suffering from critical abdominal gunshot wounds inflicted during his capture Sunday, may have died before he was hanged.

Mrs. Margaret Mullin, night supervisor, reported Vinson's abduction from Texarkana hospital by three men about 12:30 a.m. Sunday. The three took the moaning Vinson to an automobile, she said.

Others Join Abduction Car.

Police said the abduction car apparently was joined by two others loaded with twelve men, and that the three cars stopped a mile from the hospital to tie Vinson to one and then continued to the cotton gin at the edge of the city.

Mrs. Mullin telephoned police, who found Vinson's body dangling twenty feet above the loading platform. Sheriff Monroe Watts said when he reached the scene residence from nearby houses, wearing night clothing, were staring at the body in the dim light of a street lamp seventy-five yards away.

Attack In Trailer Told.

Watts said he had not been able to learn the identity of any of the lynchers.

Vinson was accused of attempting to attack the 22-year-old wife of a war plant worker in the cabin trailer where she was asleep with her baby. Her screams brought Clifford Adams and C. H. Roberts, who chased Vinson to a restaurant. In the ensuing fight Roberts struck Vinson with a pistol which discharged, wounding Adams in the arm. Aoberts said Vinson drew a knife and he then fired again, wounding Vinson in the abdomen.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Sheriff Has No Clues In Texas Lynching

TEXARKANA, Texas, July 13 (AP)—Sheriff Monroe Watts said today that he had made no arrests and had no clues in connection with the lynching early today of Willie Vinson, 25-year-old Negro suspected of attempted assault upon a white woman.

Watts said Vinson was taken from a hospital by a group of men and hanged to a winch at a cotton gin outside the city. Vinson was captured early Sunday morning in a cafe where he was employed as a dishwasher. He had been tentatively identified by the woman involved.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Arkansas Mob Hangs Its Victim

Drag Dying Man Behind Auto, Then Hang Him

TEXARKANA, Ark.—With Sikeston, Mo., as its model, a mob of Arkansas white men seized a dying man from his hospital bed, dragged him behind a moving car for eight or 10 blocks and then hanged him from a cotton gin winch here Sunday night, July 12.

The victim, Willie Vinson, 25, was accused of attempting to attack the wife of a defense plant worker.

Vinson was not positively identified as the would-be attacker. The woman said merely that he "strongly resembled" the man who accosted her in her trailer camp home across from the Red River Ordnance depot.

Resembles Sikeston

In many instances, the lynching here parallels the orgy which took place in Sikeston, Mo., on January 25, when Cleo Wright was burned to death. The facts in the two cases are so much alike that it appears the mob here may have read the accounts of the Sikeston affair and then proceeded to duplicate it.

The points of similarity:

1. Both Wright and Vinson were critically wounded when the mobs took them in hand. Wright had been shot three times and was dying on a cot in the jail at Sikeston. Vinson had been shot and critically wounded in the abdomen by a group of men who cornered him at Harvell's cafe on Highway 82.

2. Both Wright and Vinson, in a dying condition, were tied behind an automobile and dragged for 8 or 10 blocks to the lynching site.

Both Under Protection

3. Both men were taken away from places where they were supposed to be guarded and protected. Wright was in the custody of the law at the city jail. Vinson was a "hold" prisoner at the hospital and was supposed to have had protection of police.

The fact that Vinson's guilt was never firmly established was brought out when it became known that Sheriff Monroe Watts placed two other men besides Vinson under arrest. The other two were put in jail at Boston where Vinson also would have been placed had he not been wounded.

Three men snatched Vinson from his cot in the basement of the hospital. Outside they were joined by the mob which tied the body to the car.

Tuskegee institute's department of records and research reported on July 9, that one lynching had occurred in the first six months of 1942. It was the Elkeston lynching. The Tuskegee report says:

"'The person lynched was a Negro. The offense charged was suspected of criminal assault. The state in which the lynching occurred is Missouri. A reported case of a lynching in Texas is now under investigation."

Birmingham Post
Birmingham, Alabama

WOULD-BE ATTACKER LYNCHED IN TEXAS

By United Press.

TEXARKANA, Tex., July 24.—Willie Vinson, 25, a Negro accused of attempted criminal assault, was hanged by a group of men early today a few minutes after he was abducted from a basement ward in the Texarkana Hospital.

Suffering critical wounds received when he was captured early yesterday, Vinson apparently was dragged several blocks behind a speeding automobile and was believed dead when he was hanged.

Mrs. Margaret Mullin, night supervisor at the hospital, reported that three men entered the hospital at about 12:30 a. m. today and ran to the basement ward. They soon emerged with Vinson, and carried him to a waiting car, which reportedly carried no license plates.

The car was joined by two other automobiles, each loaded with men. Authorities believed the cars stopped a mile from the hospital to tie Vinson to the rear of one of them before continuing to the edge of this Texas-Arkansas border city.

Vinson was accused of attempting to attack Mrs. Jayson Talley, 22, the wife of a war plant worker.

* * *

TUSKEGEE, July 13.—President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute announced today that only one lynching occurred in the United States during the first six months of 1942, as compared to four last year. The case was that of a Scott County, Miss., Negro suspected of criminal assault. Another reported lynching in Texas is now under investigation.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Negro Lynched As Assault Suspect

TEXARKANA, TEXAS, July 13.—(U.P.)—Willie Vinson, 25, negro accused of attempted criminal assault, was lynched today by a mob which dragged him behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged him from a cotton gin winch.

Police said Vinson, who was suffering abdominal gun-shot wounds inflicted during his capture Sunday, may have died before he was hanged.

Mrs. Margaret Mullin, night supervisor, reported Vinson's abduction from the Texarkana Hospital by three men about 12:30 Sunday morning. The three took the moaning Vinson to a waiting automobile, she said.

Police said the abduction car apparently was joined by two others loaded with 12 men, and that three cars stopped a mile from the hospital to tie Vinson to one and then continued to the cotton gin at the edge of the city.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

NO ARRESTS ARE MADE IN TEXARKANA HANGING

Negro Attack Suspect Taken From Hospital, Lynched

TEXARKANA, Texas, July 13.—(AP)—Sheriff Monroe Watts said late Monday that he had made no arrests and had no clues in connection with the lynching early Monday of Willie Vinson, 25-year-old negro suspected of attempting criminal attack upon a white woman.

Watts said Vinson was taken from a hospital by a group of men and hanged to a winch at a cotton gin outside the city. He said the condition of the negro's body indicated it had been dragged behind an automobile before being hanged.

In Austin, Gov. Coke Stevenson declined any comment on the lynching.

Vinson was captured early Sunday morning in a cafe where he was employed as a dishwasher. He had been tentatively identified by the woman involved.

The woman, wife of a worker in an ordnance plant, was reported dragged from her trailer camp bed early Sunday by a negro who clasped his hand across her mouth. She was sleeping beside her 18-month-old son and her husband was at work.

The woman began screaming, the sheriff said, when her assailant tried to drag her to a wooded section, and she freed herself. The negro fled when neighbors ran out.

He was chased down the street into a cafe where a fight followed. The sheriff said the negro picked up a butcher knife and a man in the cafe shot him in the stomach.

The negro was taken to a hospital. The sheriff added:

"A little after midnight some fellows came to the hospital. Only three went into the hospital. The men weren't masked or armed."

The sheriff said he took the woman to the hospital Sunday to look at the negro and quoted her as saying "he looked like the man."

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Mob in Texas Lynches Negro

TEXARKANA, Tex., [AP]—Sheriff Monroe Watts said Monday that he had made no arrests and had no clues in connection with the lynching early Monday of Willie Vinson, 25-year-old Negro suspected of attempted criminal attack upon a white woman.

Watts said Vinson was taken from a hospital by a group of men and hanged to a winch at a cotton gin outside the city. He said the condition of the Negro's body indicated it had been dragged behind an automobile before being hanged.

Vinson was captured early Sunday morning in a cafe where he was employed as a dishwasher. He had been tentatively identified by the woman involved.

The woman, wife of a worker in an ordnance plant, was reported dragged from her trailer camp bed early Sunday by a Negro who clasped his hand across her mouth. She was sleeping beside her 19-month-old son and her husband was at work.

Mob Lynches Wounded Man

Helpless Negro Dragged From Texas Hospital

Special Correspondence

TEXARKANA, Tex., July 14.—Willie Vinson, 25, a Negro, was lynched yesterday by a gang of about 15 men who left his body dangling from the winch of a cotton gin in the Negro section of Texarkana.

Accused of attempting to rape a white woman, Vinson was snatched from his bed in the basement of Texarkana Hospital where he was in critical condition from a bullet wound in the abdomen.

Mrs. Margaret Mullin, night supervisor, told police the lynchers appeared shortly after midnight in three automobiles. Three men, who were neither masked nor armed, strode into the hospital and, without a word, went directly to the basement ward.

Mrs. Mullin saw the moaning Negro carried from the hospital and dumped into an automobile. She said she did not get a good look at any of the men and would not be able to identify them.

Dragged Through Streets

Sheriff Monroe Watts, who responded to Mrs. Mullin's alarm, followed the trail of the lynching party. He discovered that the three cars stopped about a mile from the hospital so that the wounded Vinson could be tied to the rear of one of the machines and dragged through the Negro district.

The lynchers were gone and there were about 75 people from the neighborhood, some in night clothes, gazing at Vinson's body, when Sheriff Watts reached the cotton gin. The dim glow of a distant street lamp lighted up the scene.

A few hours before Vinson was lynched, Mrs. Jayson Talley, 22, wife of a war plant worker, visited the hospital and said he "looked like the man" who invaded her trailer home in an auto camp Sunday morning.

Mrs. Talley was in bed beside her 19-month-old baby when, she said, the intruder seized her, clapped a hand over her mouth and started to drag her toward the woods adjacent to the camp.

When his hand was released, Mrs. Talley screamed, attracting neighbors who pursued her assailant. Gifford Adams and C. L. Roberts chased Vinson into a restaurant. Roberts said he shot Vinson when the Negro lunged at him with a kitchen knife.

Sheriff Watts said today he was still investigating, although he had no clues to the identity of the killers. He said two other Negroes, picked up as suspects in the rape attempt, probably would be released.

AN EDITORIAL

On Vinson's Lynching

"PM Daily" New York, N.Y.

The murder of Willie Vinson is the second of its kind this year. The previous victim was Cleo Wright, a cotton-mill worker, who was dragged through the streets of Sikeston, Mo., and burned to death before a mob.

Guilty or innocent, Willie Vinson was entitled to an honest trial. Instead he was murdered by fellow Americans in a nation that is fighting a war to preserve the very rights they trampled into the dust.

It was enough for them that a white woman viewed the Negro and said he "looked like the man" who attempted rape. The most restrained word for what they did is *murder*.—JAMES T. HOWARD.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

Another Lynching!

Only a few days after Tuskegee Institute had released a report showing that according to its records there had been only one lynching in the first six months of this year—that instance having occurred in Missouri—there came a report that a Negro had been taken from a hospital in Texas and hanged by a group of white men.

Attempted criminal attack was the provocation for the lynching. The woman who had been assailed by a Negro is said to have declared that the man who was hanged looked like her assailant. There are reported to have been two other cases of attempted criminal assault in the community recently.

At any time such a taking of the law out of its regular and proper channels would be deeply deplorable, horrible as was the provocation. It is all the more so at this time when the nation is engaged in a great war for, among other things, the preservation of orderly justice.

Mob law is a blow at our national strength and unity, it is a terrible blot on our own record for legal justice and it aggravates problems in relations between our own people which already are very difficult. It is earnestly to be hoped that the state of Texas recognizes the gravity of these realities and acts accordingly.

"No Clues" to Identities Of Unmasked Men in Texarkana Orgy

"San Antonio Register"
San Antonio, Tex.

By The Associated Negro Press

TEXARKANA, Texas—Identity of the dozen or more unmasked white men who entered a hospital here early Monday, July 13, to kidnap, torture, and brutally lynch 31-year-old Willie Vinson remains "unknown," according to latest reports from the office of Sheriff Monroe Watts late last week. Sheriff Watts, who said his investigation was proceeding quietly, declared:

"There are no clues to the identity of the men."

Vinson had been arrested early Sunday morning in a cafe where he was employed as dishwasher, after being tentatively identified by a woman who accused "some Negro" of routing her out of her trailer home and attempting criminal assault on her, Saturday night.

The woman, Jayson Talley, wife of a Bowie county defense plant worker, told Sheriff Watt, after his arrest, that Vinson "resembled the man." She said her assailant fled when neighbors, hearing her screams, came to her resuce in a wooded section near the trailer where she had been dragged.

Vinson, apprehended upon Mrs. Talley's meager description, attempted to protect himself with a butcher knife when sheriff's men came to arrest him early Sunday morning at his place of employment. In a struggle with C. D. Roberts and Gifford Adams, white bystanders, who said they had pursued him when atrracted by the cries of Mr. Talley, Vinson was shot in the stomach and removed to Texarkana hospital.

Between 12:32 and 12:40, Monday morning, three unmasked men are declared to have slipped by the night supervisor, who was said to have been talking on the phone, Mrs. Margaret Mullin, and entered Vinson's room in a basement ward. Dragging the seriously wounded Vinson from his bed, out of the hospital and into the street, the three assailants were joined by a dozen or so other unmasked men.

Manhandling Vinson, who was continually pleading his innocence, groaning and begging for mercy, the mob pushed him into one of their automobiles, and drove to Phonie avenue where they were joined by two other cars. Once here, the mob dumped Vinson from the car, tied him to the bumper of one the cars, and dragged him several miles into the grounds of Texarkana Cotton Oil corporation plant.

Inside the plant grounds, the mob stopped beside a tree, but apparently changed their minds, and continued on to a cotton gin winch where they hung the near-dead man.

Witness to the lynching, Alfred Weeks, a reporter for the Texarkana Gazette, described the proceedings after Vinson was dragged from the hospital. He said:

"I heard Vinson groan; then the group of men threw a rope around his neck and dragged him behind an automobile for seven or eight blocks through the city. Later they strung him up on a cotton gin winch and left."

Vinson, native of Shreveport, La., is believed by many to be the victim of racial antagonism which has been growing constantly in the past few months since the war began and Negroes started migrating to Texarkana. Whites have grumbled constantly according to reports, about this new influx.

The atmosphere continued to be strained at the end of the week, with mingled reactions of fear and resentment among Negroes. Many of the most recent influx have returned to their homes while other remain, radically declaring:

"America needs to make democracy and justice work at home before presuming to extend and enforce them abroad."

Two other suspects, placed in a Boston, Texas jail, are expected to be released due to lack of evidence.

Nurses at Texarkana hospital, declared they could not identify the unmasked men who entered the hospital, and the automobiles used were devoid of license plates it is reported.

Vinson's body was shipped home to Shreveport Monday for burial.

In Austin, Gov. Coke Stevenson is reported to have said he "deplored lynching."

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Report Texarkana Hospital Sued Over Lynching

TEXARKANA, Texas — (ANP) — Unconfirmed reports eminating from reliable sources say the sister of William Vinson, Shreveport Negro, who was abducted from the Texarkana hospital and lynched here by a Texas mob Monday morning, July 13, at 12:30 o'clock has already sued or will sue the hospital and others known to be negligent in not protecting Vinson. Damages asked or to be asked were not divulged by the informant.

The name of Vinson's sister was not obtained, but she is said to be backed by an influential white woman who has known her for years. The white woman who is backing Vinson's sister is alleged to have come here with her to assist in taking the necessary legal steps to collect damages for the death of her brother who was lynched by the mob after being abducted and dragged through the streets of the city.

37a-1942
Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Young Texas Man Lynched

TEXARKANA, Texas—(SNS) — A young colored man suspected of the attempted attack of a white woman was lynched by a mob of white men just outside the city early Monday morning.

The victim was listed as Willie Vinson, 25.

Sheriff Monroe Watts said that Vinson had been taken from a hospital and hanged to a winch at a cotton gin outside the city.

Watts said the condition of Vinson's body indicated that it had been dragged behind an automobile before hanging, but there were no bullet wounds other than one received when Vinson was captured early Sunday morning in a cafe where he was employed.

The sheriff reported that the lynching victim had been tentatively identified by the woman involved.

No arrests have been made of the lynching suspects and no clues secured, according to the declaration of Sheriff Watts.

neared a wooded section, Mrs. Talley managed to break away.

Her screams attracted the attention of several men who pursued the Negro as he ran into a cafe. Vinson fought back savagely, striking one of his pursuers with a flashlight and then seized a butcher knife. At this, the leader of the pursuers drew a gun and shot Vinson.

The Negro was taken to the hospital and was to have been arraigned as soon as he recovered sufficiently.

Tuskegee, Ala., July 13—(IP)—President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute announced today that only one lynching occurred in the United States during the first six months of 1942, as compared with four in the same period last year.

Patterson said the only positive case of death by mob violence was that of a Scott County, Missouri, Negro suspected of criminal assault, who was dragged through a Negro section and burned. Another reported lynching in Texas is now under investigation, he said.

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
July 13, 1942

Negro Lynched Near Texarkana

Texarkana, Texas, July 13—(INS)—Willie Vinson, 25-year-old Negro accused of an attempted attack upon the wife of a war plant worker, was lynched early today by a group of less than 20 men within eight minutes after he had been dragged from the Texarkana Hospital.

The lynchers arrived at the hospital in three automobiles. Three of the men dashed inside while the superintendent was busy at the telephone and ran to the lower floor where they seized the Negro. They hanged him to a cotton gin winch a mile away.

Vinson was shot and wounded yesterday after he was alleged to have dragged Mrs. Jayson Talley from her trailer camp home near the war plant in Bowie County where she was sleeping with her 19-month-old son. As the Negro

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
July 14, 1942

SHERIFF HAS NO CLUES IN LYNCHING OF NEGRO

TEXARKANA, Tex., July 13 (AP).—Sheriff Monroe Watts said today that he had made no arrests and had no clues in connection with the lynching early today of Willie Vinson, 25-year-old Negro, suspected of attempted criminal attack upon a white woman.

Watts said Vinson was taken from a hospital by a group of men and hanged to a winch at a cotton gin outside the city. He said the condition of the Negro's body indicated it had been dragged behind an automobile before being hanged.

(In Austin, Gov. Coke Stevenson declined any comment on the lynching.)

TEXAS
Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

6851

Background of Texas Lynching Revealed in Exclusive Story

TEXARKANA, Tex.—(FP)—In the background of the lynching of Willie Vinson, which Attorney General Francis Biddle has ordered the FBI to investigate, is a tension that has been growing in this northeastern Texas community since an influx of whites and Negroes to seek jobs in a new munitions plant. Those who profit by racial hatred between workers had been working up feeling against the Negroes for some weeks before Vinson was hanged from a cotton gin winch.

Situated near the Arkansas border, Texarkana is in the worst lynch belt in Texas so that it was not difficult to find a lynching mob when the provocation came along—an attempted assault on the wife of a white war worker who was unable to identify Vinson as the would-be assailant.

Mob murder is a sordid tradition of this area. Less than 200 miles away (relatively short distance in Texas) is Sherman, where a particularly brutal lynching occurred. A Negro accused of attacking a school teacher was tied on the schoolhouse roof and burned alive. Needless to say, Sherman was short of school space for some time after the murder.

In Paris, midway between Sherman and Texarkana, Henry Smith was lynched in the '90's after confessing to the murder and rape of a policeman's 3-year-old daughter. He was burned alive, and the mob seized pieces of his bones and clothes for souvenirs.

In 1905, at Sulphur Springs, two counties over from Texarkana, a Negro confessing an attack on a Baptist preacher's daughter was burned on the courthouse square. The mob evened up things with the sheriff, who had refused to surrender the prisoner, by burning the courthouse.

Van Alstyne, located in the same county as Sherman, witnessed the shooting of a Negro family suspected of murdering a young housewife. Though the aged Negro and his two boys were described by white neighbors as "good" Negroes, and only one Negro was thought to be involved in the attack, the family was shot from ambush one at a time.

Texarkana, too, has an early claim to fame in this hotly defended area of white supremacy. In reconstruction days Cullen Baker, an ex-confederate soldier, swore a vendetta against Negroes because he was arrested while drunk by Negro soldiers. Released from jail, he went back and shot all the Negroes there. For a number of years he terrorized the section, preying on unarmed Negroes and their white defenders.

On one occasion Baker assumed another name and recruited a group of Negroes to hunt the bitterly hated Cullen Baker. Giving 16 of the Negroes dummy guns for practice, he had them approach a squad of his outlaws as part of the drill. Baker's well armed band then massacred all 16. But this flower of southern chivalry was soon to wilt; Baker's own brother-in-law, whom he once reportedly attempted to hang, shot him.

A murder occurred in nearby Athens at almost the same time Vinson was hanged but no lynching took place. Tom Hobbs, a white landlord, poisoned Papen Bradley, a Negro, because Bradley's wife, Dora, refused to leave her husband for illicit relations with Hobbs.

The Dallas Express, a Negro newspaper, hopes that the FBI will do something about Vinson's murder because, it says, while a local investigation probably will be made, "the grand jury, if it runs true to form, will whitewash the victim and close the incident without any attempt at punishment."

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
July 24, 1942

Probe of Texas Lynching Ordered

Washington, July 24—(IP)—Attorney General Francis Biddle today ordered the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investige the lynching of William Vinson, Negro, by a mob at Texarkana, Texas, July 20.

Biddle asked the FBI to determine whether the identity of the lynchers can be learned and whether federal civil rights statutes have been violated.

Information in the hands of the Justice Department's civil rights section, according to Biddle, is that Vinson was accused of trying to rape a white woman at the Red River Ordnance Depot trailer camp, near Texarkana. He was captured, after being shot and critically wounded, and was taken to the Texarkana hospital where he allegedly was left without guard or police protection.

Early the following day, the Justice Department was informed, about 50 men entered the hospital, took Vinson from his bed, and tied one end of a rope around his neck and the other end to the rear bumper of an automobile.

He was dragged through the streets of Texarkana, it was reported, and when the cavalcade of several cars reached the grounds of the Texarkana Cotton Oil Corporation, his body was hanged from a loading platform winch.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
July 14, 1942

NO LYNCHING CLEWS FOUND

TEXARKANA, Tex., July 13—(AP)—Sheriff Monroe Watts said Monday that he had made no arrests and had no clews in connection with the lynching early Monday of Willie Vinson, 25-year-old Negro suspected of attempted criminal attack upon a white woman. Watts said Vinson was taken from a hospital by a group of men and hanged outside the city. He said the condition of the Negro's body indicated it had been dragged behind an automobile before being hanged.

Guardian
Boston, Mass.

Attempted Rape Suspect Hanged Near City By Mob

"The Informer" Houston, Tex.

TEXARKANA.—Willie Vinson, 25, was taken from a hospital here early Monday morning, dragged through the streets and hanged from a winch at a cotton gin at the edge of the city. After Vinson had been shot fatally, the woman in the case was carried to the hospital and the best she could do at identification was, "He looks like the man." In the meantime, two other men had already been picked up as suspects for the alleged attempted rape.

Unlikely Story

The story as told by the sheriff seems too unlikely to be exactly true, so far as the people here who are free of emotions are concerned. The woman says she was dragged from her trailer camp while she slept beside her 19-month-old baby. According to her story, the assailant clamped his hand over her mouth and dragged her from the trailer. As narrow as a trailer is she could have kicked up enough noise to have awakened the mayor at the city hall, if she had wanted to kick, for with one hand over her mouth and only the other one to do the dragging and holding, she had plenty freedom to swing about and kick if she could not "holler."

Later the woman says, when the assailant attempted to draw her towards some woods, she began screaming. If she could scream with the hand clamped over her mouth at that instance, why could she not scream in the trailer?

Sshe also says that then she wrenched rree. But evidently the hand must have been taken from her mouth for her to scream, and the assailant must have had two hands to hold her now; still she could wrench free when he had two hands and plenty of space to brace himself, but she could neither wrench free nor scream in the narrow channels of a trailer while he dragged her out with one hand.

According to the sheriff, Willie Vinson (if we believe the sheriff and the woman it must have been Willie Vinson) fled because the woman screamed, and they chased him to the cafe where he worked. Vinson picked up a knife and one of the men (of course, the sheriff could not find out which one of these men did it) shot him in the stomach.

Now this same sheriff says that two men had already been picked up as suspects. If this incident had happened as fast as he says, from the cabin to the screaming, to the cafe and the shooting, how had he had a chance to pick up two suspects? It looks suspiciously as if the sheriff has guilty knowledge of that lynching and is trying to justify it by an official statement which does not hold water.

Negroes Doubt

Negroes, and some of the franker citizens, doubt the above version of the matter. These think that the woman's memory failed her, and that she forgot that she came out of the trailer herself. It is predicted that when a real investigation is made of this lynching, sensational data will be disclosed, reflecting upon the relationships between certain classes of whites and Negroes of this town since the munitions plant came.

The better class of Negroes express themselves as resenting bitterly this lawless killing of Vinson, without any attempt to place the attempted rape at his door by conclusive evidence that anyone could accept. Vinson had been shot, according to the sheriff's own statement, before the woman was asked to identify him. Even then she only could say, after she knew that the man had been shot on her account and she would have to do something, that "he looks like the man." After a mob had shot a man, it seemed that the sheriff was guilty of criminal negligence not to have had a guard around him at the hospital. There is a smoldering feeling of bitterness here on account of this lynching.

Federal Sleuths Probe Texas Lynching

WASHINGTON—Attorney General Francis Biddle announced that he had ordered an FBI investigation into the lynching of William Vinson by a mob at Texarkana, Texas, on July 20.

According to information in the hands of the Civil Rights Section of the Department of Justice, Vinson is alleged to have attempted to rape a white woman at the Red River Ordnance Depot trailer camp, near Texarkana. While being captured was shot and critically wounded. He was then taken to the Texarkana Hospital for treatment where, it was charged, he was left without a guard or police protection.

It is reported that in the early morning hours of the following day a mob of approximately 50 men entered the hospital, took Vinson from his bed, tied one end of a rope around his neck and the other end to the rear bumper of an automobile, and dragged him through the streets of the town. When the cavalcade of several automobiles reached the ground of the Texarkana Cotton Oil Corporation, Vinson's body was hanged from a winch on the loading platform.

The investigation ordered by the Attorney General is for the purpose of determining whether the identity of the lynchers can be learned and whether they can be prosecuted under the Federal Civil Rights Statutes.

6852

37a-1942
Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

The Texas Lynching

The Texarkana (Texas) Gazette is to be congratulated for having demanded a grand jury investigation of the lynching in that city Sunday night of a Negro accused of attempting to rape a young war plant worker's wife.

There are indications that the Gazette's demand, like so many others before it, will fall upon unwilling ears. We hope we are wrong about that but the signs are familiar. Neither the sheriff, who failed to provide a guard for the accused as he lay critically injured in a hospital, nor any of the nurses at the hospital, can now "remember" what the mob leaders looked like, though the latter were unmasked. That is, unhappily, the usual pattern of events in cases of this kind.

We have said before, and we say it again: This is Texas' responsibility. Texas does not want a federal anti-lynch law. The most reasonable answer to the recurrent demands for such a law is not a filibuster by Texas congressmen, but a definite indication on the part of Texas authorities that they can handle such situations themselves.

Some of our readers may ask why, if we regard this as Texas' responsibility, The Sun interests itself in its solution. The answer is that we are fighting a war to destroy a system of government which allows ones murder without trial; we are fighting that war, not as an agglomeration of 48 states, but as 132,000,000 united people, joined with hundreds of millions of other peoples throughout the world who believe as we do.

Texas' problem is the problem of the United Nations. Let Texas speedily mend the rent in the United Nations first line of defense!—(Chicago Sun).

TEXAS
Christian Index
Jackson, Tennessee

JUDGE LYNCH

ALMOST simultaneously with the release of the lynching record of one member of our group for the first six months in 1942 from the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee Institute, the daily papers were carrying the news of another lynching of a member of our race at Texarkana, Texas, on Sunday morning, July 12. And so, this purely American Institution (Lynching) continues to be practiced upon the colored race in spite of the fact of the terrible conflict which promises to secure freedom, fairness and justice to all mankind, if won by the Allied nations with whom the United States is taking a leading part is being fought on land, and sea and in the air throughout the world.

By no stretch of imagination can there be any excuse for the awful tragedy of lynching Will Vinson which occurred on Sunday morning in Texarkana. He had been tentatively identified by the supposed victim; he was wounded when apprehended; he would have been most surely condemned when tried, he would, without doubt have paid whatever the extreme penalty was. Agian we are forced to ask the question, What price Constitution? What price Bill of Rights? What Price Democracy? What Price Justice? and what price Loyalty?

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Mob in Texas Lynches Negro Held in Assault

By the Associated Press

Texarkana, Tex., July 13.—Sheriff Monroe Watts said that Willie Vinson, 25-year-old Negro suspected of the attempted rape of a white woman, was taken from a hospital by a group of men and hanged early today to a winch at a cotton gin outside the city.

Watts said the condition of the Negro's body indicated it had been dragged behind an automobile before being hanged, but there were no bullet wounds other than one received when Vinson was captured early Sunday morning in a cafe where he was employed.

Vinson had been tentatively identified by the woman involved.

The sheriff declared he had investigated the lynching but had made no arrests and had no clues.

"The nurses in the hospital didn't get a good look at them, it happened so quickly," he said.

The attempted rape was the third in this community this month.

The woman, wife of a worker in an ordnance plnat, was reported dragged from her trailer-camp bed early Sunday by a Negro who clapped his hand across her mouth. She was sleeping beside her 19-month-old son. Her husband was at work.

The sheriff said the woman began screaming when her assailant tried to drag her to a wooded section. She wrenched free. Neighbors ran out and the Negro fled. They chased him down the street into a cafe, the sheriff related, where a fight followed. Vinson, the sheriff said, picked up a butcher knife and one of the men in the cafe shot him in the stomach.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

ORDERS LYNCHING INQUIRY

Biddle Asks FBI to Investigate Texarkana Case

WASHINGTON, July 24 (AP)—Attorney General Biddle ordered the FBI today to inviestgate the death of William Vinson, a Negro, at Texarkana, Texas, on Monday, to determine whether it was a lynching in which mob members can be identified and prosecuted under the civil rights laws.

The Justice Department said that Vinson was shot and critically wounded while being captured after, it was alleged, he had attempted to rape a white women at the Red River ordnance depot trailer camp near Texarkana.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

TEXAS HOLDS SECOND LYNCHING OF YEAR

TEXARKANA, [illegible]—A 25-year-old N[illegible] criminal assault [illegible] by a mob of whites Monday. The infuriated whites abducted Willie Vinson from a basement ward in the Texarkana hospital, where he was suffering from critical wounds received when he was captured Sunday. Vinson was dragged several blocks behind a speeding auto and when believed dead was hanged to a tree.

Vinson was accused of attempted attack on [illegible] worker. This is the second lynching of the year. The first was in Sikeston, Missouri.

The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

Texas Tragedy!

Negro Shot, Dragged by An Auto, Hanged!

FOR WHAT?

THE SAME OLD FAKE, THAT THEY ALWAYS MAKE.

Some of the South still runs true to form, despite the battling of millions of Americans, for "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness!"

A white woman and child, sleeping in a trailer. Awakened by the noise, she looked and saw this Negro trying to enter for the purpose of stealing, of course. A scream, the Negro fled, followed by men. He fell, with a bullet hole in his stomach. Officers took him to the hospital. He was taken away Sunday morning, tied to the back of an auto, dragged to the edge of the town, and there, the Texas mob had the extreme pleasure of giving an exhibition of torturing brutality, that even Hitler would have been too courageous to lie, to justify. Dabney.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Takes Victim from Hospital

Wounded Suspect Dragged to Cotton Gin and Hanged

TEXARKANA, Tex. — Willie Vinson, 25, wounded suspect in an attempted attack on a white woman, was removed from a hospital bed Monday morning by members of a white mob who hanged him at a nearby cotton gin.

Vinson had been only tentatively identified by the woman who said she had been dragged from her bed in a trailer camp for defense workers. He was shot in the stomach by one of a group of the woman's neighbors as he fought them off at a cafe where he washed dishes.

Sheriff Monroe Watts said that hospital nurses had no idea who the lynchers were, although they wore no masks, and indicated that there were no prospects that any arrests would be made.

Came in 3 Autos

Mrs. Margaret Mullin, night supervisor, told police that the lynchers appeared in three automobiles shortly after midnight. Three of the men, who were neither masked nor armed, strolled into the hospital and went directly into the basement ward.

Vinson was carried down from the hospital into an automobile. Mrs. Mullin said that she did not get a good look at any of the men and would not be able to identify them.

Dragged Through Streets

According to Sheriff Watts, who followed the trail of the lynching party, the lynchers stopped about a mile from the hospital and tied the wounded man to the rear of one of the machines so that he could be dragged through the colored section.

A few hours before Vinson was lynched, Mrs. Jayson Talley, 22, wife of a war plant worker, visited the hospital and said that he "looked like the man" who invaded her trailer home in an auto camp Sunday morning.

Sheriff Has "No Clues"

Neighbors attracted by the woman's screams, chased Vinson into a restaurant where one of them shot him. He was later taken to a hospital in critical condition.

Sheriff Watts said that he was still investigating, but that he had no clues as to the identity of the killers. Two other suspects who had been picked up would probably be released, he said.

This was the second lynching reported in Texas in 1942, and the third of the year for the nation.

Negro Lynched By Texas Mob

TEXARKANA, Tex.—An angry mob of whites snatched a wounded Negro from a hospital bed, tied him behind an auto, dragged him outside of the city and hanged him by a cotton gin last Sunday nite, July 12. The victim was Willie Vinson, 25, cafe dishwasher, who was only "tentatively" identified by a white woman as the individual who attempted to rape her Sunday.

Vinson received a stomach wound, according to the story of Sheriff Watts, after he was partially identified and chased into a cafe. When cornered, he attempted to use a knife, was shot and later carried to a hospital. In telling his account to the daily press, the sheriff added that he had no way of learning the guilty parties because "the nurses in the hospital didn't get a good look at them, it happened so quickly."

Two other Negroes were picked up as suspects before the lynching occurred, but were rushed off to a nearby town for safe-keeping.

According to current reports, the event is the culmination of three attempts at rape in the community during this month.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Texas Newspaper Raps Mob Action

(Another Editorial on Page 4)

TEXARKANA, Ark.—(ANP)—A grand jury investigation of the lynching of Willie Vinson, 31, of Shreveport, was demanded last week by Harry Humphrey, white editor of the Texarkana Gazette, in a scathing editorial in the local daily paper. Vinson, working in Texarkana, Texas, had been accused of attempted assault on Jayson Talley, 22-year-old wife of a Bowie county defense plant worker, abducted from the city hospiatl where he was being treated for a gunshot wound, dragged through the streets behind a car, and hanged on a cotton gin winch.

Humphrey, flaying Sheriff Watts for not having provided guards at Texarkana hospital, wrote as follows:

"Error in judgment probably is the minimum that might be said of Sheriff Watt's failure to provide an armed guard over the wounded Negro who was taken from a Texarkana hospital Sunday night and lynched by a group of men thus far unidentified.

"The Negro was suspected of having made an attack upon a white woman, but it had not been definitely proved that he had committed that offense. Even if he had been known definitely to be the assailant, this Negro was entitled to the protection of the law and to a fair trial in court.

"In a statement Monday the sheriff said he had not placed a guard at the hospital because he was not certain the Negro had made the attack upon the woman. That would appear to be all the more reason why such a guard would have been established. It was generally believed that the wounded Negro was the woman's assailant, and rumors that a lynching was in prospect were current early Sunday night.

"Thorough investigation' now said to be in progress probably will come to naught, as such investigations in such cases usually do. It is locking the door after the horse is stolen.

"The killing of this Negro was premeditated murder, and as such demands the attention of the grand jury. Because one man commits a crime is no license for other men to committ another crime."

The Northwest Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

Texas Lynchers Desert The Allies; Join Hitler And His Gang Of Brutes

TEXARKANA, Tex. — Sheriff Monroe Watts said that Willie Vinson, 25-year-old Negro suspected of the attempted attack of a white woman was taken from a hospital by a group of men and hanged to a winch at a cotton gin outside the city.

Watts said the condition of the Negro's body indicated that he had been dragged behind an automobile before being hanged, but there were no bullet wounds other than one received when Vinson was captured early Sunday morning in a cafe where he was employed as a dishwasher.

Vinson had been identified tentatively by the woman involved.

The sheriff declared he had investigated the lynching but had made no arrests and had no clues.

"The nurses in the hospital did not get a good look at them, it happened so quickly," he said. "Nobody seems to know who they were."

The attempted attack was the third in the community this month.

The woman, wife of a worker in an ordnance plant, was reported [illegible] bed early Sunday by a Negro who clapped his hand over her mouth. She was sleeping beside her 19-month old son. Her husband was at work.

The sheriff said the woman screamed and wrenched free. Neighbors ran out and the Negro fled. They chased him down the street into a cafe, the sheriff related, where a fight followed. Vinson, the sheriff said, picked up a butcher knife and one of the men in the cafe shot him in the stomach.

Birmingham, Ala. News
July 14, 1942

Rarely, Now

The lynching of a 25-year-old Negro man in Texarkana, Tex., emphasizes how much has been done to prevent this type of tragedy throughout the South. Rarely, now, do any citizens forget themselves so much as to take the law into their own hands in this manner.

The lynching itself can but cause sadness to all those persons in our land who have striven so steadily to educate all persons as to the necessity of letting the law decide such cases.

The fact again is emphasized that the battle against lynching is not yet over; but it is equally emphasized how much has been done.

Men have again, in this case, set themselves up, above the law, as the summary adjudicators of a man's guilt.

This tragedy will serve to renew the determination of all conscientious persons to see to it that man does yet see and understand his responsibility to his fellowman.

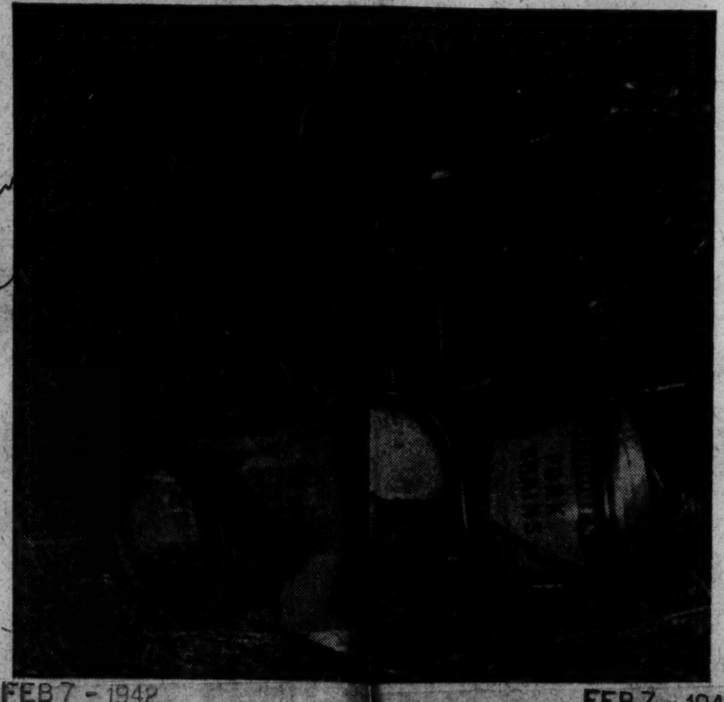
SCENES AND PRINCIPALS IN MISSOURI LYNCH PARTY













The good Christian, civic minded white populace of Sikeston, Mo., had a lynching party Sunday, and not satisfied with having killed a man, burned his body in view of a Negro church where services were in progress. The victim, Cleo Wright, a 30-year-old mill worker, is survived by his parents and a pregnant 18-year-old wife. Top left is Sikeston city hall from which the mob dragged the wounded Wright; center is Wright's widow, Ardella; right is scene in store of George Scott where terrorized Negro citizens gathered to discuss the tragedy. Below: Nurse Ann Haine of Sikeston General hospital which won't treat Negroes, administers to Hess Perrigan, police officer stabbed by Wright during fight. Perrigan, with a severed artery beneath his tongue, is unable to talk; center are cans used to pour gasoline on bruised body of Cleo Wright before it was set afire. Right: Mrs. Dillard Sturgeon, whom Wright was accused of having attacked with a knife. Shown with her is her husband, an army sergeant on duty in California. The Sikeston City council voted an appropriation of $50 to help pay his transportation home so that he might see his injured wife.—Acme and Defender photos.

Three Questions Must Be Answered In Lynch Probe

1. Why didn't the Sikeston city policemen and the state patrolmen take Cleo Wright to another town instead of returning him to the jail at early Sunday morning when they knew a mob had been forming there since daybreak and that feeling was high? There are numerous towns close together in Southeast Missouri. Anyone could have served as a place of safe-keeping.

2. Why can't Chief of Police Walter Kendall of Sikeston, Prosecuting Attorney David Blanton of Scott county and Sergeant Melvin Dace of state highway patrol identify leaders of the mob inasmuch as the lynchers were not masked? The officers called the mob leaders inside the jail to try to persuade them not to take Wright. Don't they know to whom they talked?

3. Why didn't the city authorities of Sikeston call for the aid of the state militia in time to prevent the lynching? It seemed to have been common knowledge throughout the city that the lynching was scheduled. It was known far enough in advance for carloads of persons to come from surrounding towns to witness the burning of a human being set afire with gasoline.



Recall Lynching of Son—

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Grigory, 408 Marshall street, Charleston, Missouri, recalled the lynching of their son, Roosevelt, on December 18, 1924, on a trumped up charge of 'rape' that was later declared 'unfounded.' The unpleasant memory was brought to life by the steady stream of Sikeston citizens trudging past the Grigory home on the highway headed east and to unknown destinations.

—McKibben photo.

to the city hall building in the rear of which the jail is located.

Wright then was taken to the General hospital where he was bandaged lightly. He was treated by Dr. E. J. Nienstedt who said that his condition was critical and that he had only an outside chance to recover. He had been struck by four bullets, one going all the way through his abdomen. Two hit his chest and one his arm.

Called for His Wife

Wright was in a semi-conscious condition. In his dying agony, he called for his wife. An officer was sent to Wright's home in Sunset to bring his wife to the hospital. Wright's wife, Mrs. Ardella Wright, is an expectant mother. The white officer sent to Sunset found Officer Henry Bartlett, Sikeston's only Negro policeman, who is on duty in Sunset at night. Bartlett went in the Wright home and told Mrs. Wright what had happened. Mrs. Wright's mother, who lives across the street, decided that she would go to the hospital instead of her daughter who was in no condition to face the ordeal.

The mother, Mrs. Minnie Gay, said that when she reached the basement of the hospital where Wright was lying. her son-in-law was unconscious and unable to talk to her. He was in a dying state.

Mrs. Gay returned to her home, bringing her daughter with her. She said that about 5 o'clock an ambulance drove up bringing Wright home. Mrs. Gay was told that the Sikeston General hospital had no space either for colored patients or for charity patients.

Wright was placed in bed at his own home about 5 a. m. From time to time, white persons came to Sunset to see whether Wright was dead. After daybreak when word reached the main part of town that Wright was still living, it is believed that plans then were made for the lynching bee.

About 9 a. m., an ambulance from a white undertaking parlor returned to Wright's home and took him to the city hall. Mrs. Gay, Wright's mother-in-law, said that she asked the authorities to take Wright back to the hospital because he was in such pain and agony. But the dying man was taken back to the city jail where a mob already was beginning to form.

Lynching Bee Rumored

By this time rumors had reached the Negro community that "they plan to drag Cleo at 11:30." It is not known where the rumor came from. Most Negro persons who heard it refused to believe it, but at 11:30 they knew that for once a rumor was accurate.

If the officers had really wanted to save Wright from the mob, they could have taken him out of town instead of returning him to the city jail. The Negro community is near two U. S. highways. The wounded man would have been taken to any one of a dozen or more nearby-towns for safe-keeping. If the excuse is given that he was mortally wounded and in no condition to travel, the answer is that he could have been no worse off in an ambulance going to safety, than he was moved first from the jail to the hospital, then home and then back to jail. Even had he died on the way to a place of sake-keeping, it would have been better than death at the hands of a lynch mob. And Sikeston would not have joined Charleston, Excelsior Springs, Maryville and St. Joseph, Missouri's other lynch towns.

The use of tear gas, or a threat to shoot into the would-be lynchers, would have dispersed the mob as lynchers are known cowards. Chief of Police Kendall, Sgt. Melvin Dace of the state patrol did attempt to persuade the mob not to take Wright. But during the time that the officers were standing off the mob, they did not call for help from the state militia. Had the 15 state troopers who rushed to Sikeston after the lynching have been called while the mob was storming the city hall, the lynching may have been prevented.

Mobbists Not Masked

The members of the mob were not masked and were not armed. Chief of Police Kendall and Sergeant Dace, according to the Southeast Missourian, daily paper in this section, called in the leaders of the mob and talked to them.

....

The paper said, "Sgt. Dace and the other officers called those who seemed to be leaders inside and talked with them, telling them that they were doing a thing that might lead to much trouble, and that it was the wrong thing to do to attempt to take the Negro by force. The outsiders were told that Wright was wounded and probably would not live long at the best."

If the officers knew who the leaders of the mob were and called them inside for a conference, why cannot they identify them?

The members of the mob began to gather shortly after daybreak. They chatted in groups about the cutting of Mrs. Sturgeon the night before. Even that early there was talk of "getting him."

Sergeant Dace said that he came to the City Hall at 9:30 a. m. and that he heard talk of violence. He said that he called other members of the patrol and together they kept the crowd out until the crowd grew so large that they pushed the officers aside and gained entrance.

The glass-panelled front doors of the city hall were not broken when THE CALL reporters inspected the city hall Tuesday. The upper wooden panel of the wooden door of the room where Wright was held had been broken in. The bottom part of the door was intact, giving it a window-like appearance. There was a hinge for a lock on the outside. Chief Kendall said that the door was locked but he did not say whether anyone unlocked it for the mob. If the door was not unlocked, a member or members of the mob would have had to climb through the upper opening of the door and lift the dying Wright through the opening.

Prosecuting Attorney Blanton admitted that he was not injured or threatened by the mob. He said that he was struck in the stomach in the confusion but that the blow was not given him purposely but was received as the crowd shoved about.

"I saw that I was going to be knocked down and trampled. All I could do was back up."

Alive When Taken

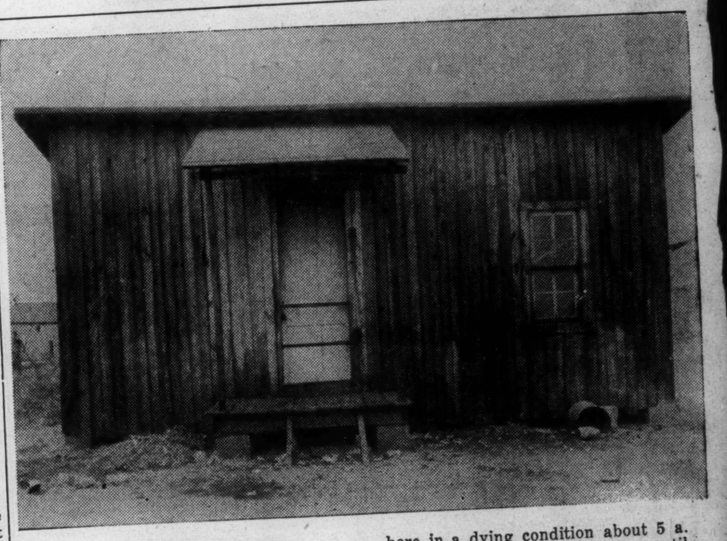
Eye-witnesses said that Wright, a dying man, was thrown from the door of the city hall to the street. As his body struck the ground, Wright is said to have moved his head slightly as he rolled down to the curb and into the street.

This answers the question as to whether Wright was dead or alive when removed from the city hall. He was alive. He probably was dead by the time he had been dragged over the streets and gasoline poured over his body.

Wright was not tied to the running board of the truck at the city hall. He was placed into the trunk compartment of a car and taken to the Negro community. The mob stopped in front of a Negro church, took Wright out of the compartment and tied his ankle to the bumper. The procession around the Negro community followed.

Wright was seen in a cafe in Sunset from dusk, when he left home, until 9 p. m. He told his wife that he was going to pay a fellow for some cigarettes he had gotten. He played the piano in a cafe for an hour or so, chatted with several friends and left.

He was arrested between 1 and 2 o'clock in the morning as he walked near the Frisco depot.



Where Lynch Victim Lived—

The shanty in Sunset, Negro community of Sikeston, awhere Cleo Wright and his wife, Mrs. Ardella Wright, lived. Police brought Wright here in a dying condition about 5 a. m. Sunday. He was left there until between 8 and 9 a.m. when he was returned to the city hall and seized two hours later by the mob.

—McKibben photo.

No Basis---

(Continued From Page 1)

walking toward the Negro district. It was Cleo Wright. They stopped the car and called Wright. They said they saw blood spots on his right trouser leg.

Perrigan said he asked Wright, "Let's see the knife you have in your hand." The officer said that Wright pulled a blood-stained red and white banded knife from his pocket. Wright told the officer that he cut his hand on the knife.

Perrigan told him, "You're the guy we are looking for."

Perrigan disarmed Wright and put him in the back seat of the car, then got in with him while Whitely took the wheel. Wright pulled another knife from his shoe and cut Perrigan about the head and face, injuring him so that he is unable to talk at the present. The officer shot him four times, injuring him critically.

While she was being taken to the hospital, Mrs. Sturgeon is reported to have told relatives the Negro entered their bedroom and said, "Oh, there's two of you here tonight. Keep your mouth shut, or I'll kill you both."

Mrs. John Sturgeon ran out through the living room, but Wright caught Mrs. Dillard Sturgeon and said, "I'm going to cut you down to my size if you scream."

As she attempted to escape, she said, he slashed her across the abdomen and then attempted to cut her throat. Her fingers were severely cut when she threw up her hand and grabbed the knife blade.

Wright then knocked her to the floor and fled, Mrs. Sturgeon related. At no time did he demand her money, she said.

What Wright's motive really was will never be known. He was in the Missouri state penitentiary in 1940-1941 for burglary.

Ask F. D. R. for Lynching Law

NEW YORK. — The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has called upon President Roosevelt to request Congress to "enact without delay legislation which will give authority to the federal government to proceed against lynchers and lynching."

WHERE SIKESTON IS

Sikeston, with a population of 7,944 persons, is located near that section known at the "bootheel" of Missouri. It is about 32 miles west of Cairo, Ill., the point where the Ohio and Mississippi rivers meet. It is also within 40 miles of the point where Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee meet. It lies 74 miles north of the Arkansas state line on Highway 61, and by highway, Sikeston is 137 miles south of St. Louis.

Negroes have been permitted to live in their own homes in Sikeston only for the last 20 years. Prior to that they could live only in cabins on a white family's property. It is estimated that 2,000 Negroes and 6,000 whites live in Sikeston.

Could Have Prevented Well-Planned Lynching; Policemen Take Part

(Continued from Page 1)

The police were mixed up in the crowd. After the body started to burn, I walked away and went home."

Another witness told THE CALL that the body burned from shortly after 11 o'clock until 1 o'clock when the fire went out. The body was not entirely burned. The left side was charred, the right side blistered.

Dragged Along Road

One of Wright's legs was fastened to the bumper of a 1941 maroon colored Ford truck. He was stripped of clothing except for a "lion's skin" (loin cloth) as the witnesses called it. He was dragged on his back, face upward.

A woman, watching the lynch procession through her window, said that she saw Wright raise his head and lock his hands behind his neck to keep his head from bouncing on the rough dirt roads.

Another woman said, but it could not be verified, that at one point Wright yelled. The car was halted while a member of the mob slit the dying man's tongue.

While Wright's body burned, hundreds of persons came to the Sunset addition to look. There men, women and children in the crowd. Members of the mob jeered to Negro men passing by, "You'd better come and look. You may be next."

Children who were leaving Sunday school were frightened by the mob, members of which told them, "Here's what we do to your kind."

The lynching occurred at the church hour and the church-going element of the population was in service.

A member of a church behind the school near the lynching said that the commotion of a caravan of motor cars with horns blowing and passengers yelling disturbed the congregation but the worshippers did not know the cause. The minister had not yet begun his sermon so one woman tiptoed out to look. She saw a blaze and took her seat telling the person next to her that a car was on fire. The crowd around the blaze was too large for her to see the burning body.

Shortly afterward someone from the outside sent a note to the minister. By this time the crowd had begun to disperse and persons going home from church saw the remains of what the day before had been a human being, a fellow resident of Sunset.

At a Baptist church about two blocks from the lynch scene, a policeman went to the door and told the usher to tell the minister to keep everybody inside.

At the outset we said that the lynching could have been prevented. The story is told elsewhere how Wright is alleged to have broken into the home of a white woman and how the woman was slashed across the abdomen with a knife, how Wright escaped and was arrested later by the Frisco depot by Officer Hess Perrigan.

Perrigan after shooting Wright four times after Wright cut him across the face with a knife, drove Wright

Southeast Missouri Disgraces State With Year's First Llynching

SIKESTON, Mo.—A mob of 300 white southeastern Missourians dragged a dying man through the streets of the Negro community here Sunday morning, then poured gasoline over his body and burned it.

Cleo Wright, 26-year-old victim of the year's first lynching, was already dying from four bullet wounds when the mob overpowered police officers and took Wright from the city hall building where the jail is located.

Wright, still living, was placed in the trunk compartment of an automobile and driven with state policemen and carloads of whites to Sunset addition, the Negro community.

In front of the First Baptist church, Wright was removed from the trunk and his ankle tied to the bumper of a maroon-colored 1941 truck. He was tied with his naked back on the ground, face up, and was dragged up one street and down the other with his head bouncing as the car sped. He was stripped of clothing except for a loin cloth.

After dragging the body through the Negro section the mob stopped in front of the Lincoln junior high school, untied Wright, poured gasoline over his body and set fire to it.

The spot in Sunset (as the Negro community is called) just over the railroad track and in front of the West End school for Negro children, where the final phase of the lynching occurred, will always be a black mark on Sikeston and Southeast Missouri area.

WRIGHT ALREADY SHOT, WAS BARELY LIVING

Wright, 26-year-old employe of the Sikeston Cotton Seed Milling company, was barely living when a mob stormed the city hall, in the rear of which the jail is located, and demanded that officers turn over the prisoner to them. He had been shot four times by Officer Hess Perringan, 37, who arrested Wright on a charge of slashing a white woman, Mrs. Dillard Sturgeon, 29, across the abdomen with a knife.

The crowd which grew to 500 began to gather in front of the jail about 9 a. m. At the jail when the mob formed were Chief of Police Walter Kendall, Sgt. Melvin Dace of the state highway patrol and Troopers Vincent Boisaubin and John Tandy. Prosecuting Attorney David Blanton arrived a little later.

Sergeant Dace and the others called those who seemed to be leaders inside and talked with them, trying to persuade them not to take the prisoner, saying that he was in a dying condition.

Wright had been placed in a first floor room in the women's detention department. The room is fitted with upper and lower bunks and has an ordinary wood door. Neither the window nor the door is equipped with bars. The main part of the jail is on the second floor of the city hall. Officers said Wright was placed in the first floor room because of his severe wounds.

BODY BURIED WITHOUT CEREMONY

The mob crashed through at 11 a. m., overpowering the officers. They dragged Wright through the jail corridor and to the street, where his feet were tied to the rear bumper of a car, and he was dragged along the pavement on his back. The mob drove the shortest way to the Negro community, about five blocks away, and untied his body from the car in front of the school. Gasoline was poured on the body and it was burned.

The body lay in the dirt in front of the school for five hours after the lynching. Hundreds of curious visited the scene. Later in the day a city dump truck took the body away, and it was kept at the city hall over night. Monday it was buried in the potters' field in Carpenter cemetery, north of Sikeston.

Highway patrolmen were sent to Sikeston Sunday afternoon. Entrance to Sunset was locked all day Monday and Monday night by patrolmen. Two reporters from The Call, arriving in the rain about 8:30 p. m. Monday were stopped as they crossed the railroad track and started to drive up the dirt road leading to the Negro community. Three patrolmen stationed there for the night said none was permitted to enter Sunset before daylight unless they lived there. "This is for the protection of the colored people," they said. The Call reporters drove to Charleston, 14 miles, to seek lodging for the night.

Neither rain, nor promises of an investigation, nor attempts to smooth things over by saying that Wright was not an exemplary citizen can erase from the Negro community the memory of a human body being turned into a flaming torch by a mob of 300 whites at church time on Sunday.

The condition of Mrs. Dillard Sturgeon, who was severely cut by Cleo Wright, the mob victim, was improved Tuesday, although it still is regarded as critical. Mrs. Sturgeon was slashed across the chest and abdomen, and four fingers of her right hand were almost severed, when she grabbed the knife wielded by Wright.

Officials at the Sikeston General hospital where both Mrs. Sturgeon and Officer Perrigan are patients, said that the officer may be released within two or three days.

Sergeant Sturgeon, who is stationed in California, was sent $160 so he might take a plane for Sikeston. This money was raised by the citizens and $50 was appropriated at a special session of the city council.

No report has been made of any funds being collected for Wright's widow.

Many Negroes left town quietly Sunday night. Monday morning, the cotton mill where Wright was employed, was forced to shut down because only 12 of its 60 Negro employes reported for duty. The Negro school was also closed on Monday.

Tuskegee Institute
Records Research
Department
Tuskegee Inst. Ala
CORRESPOND.

Southeast Missouri Lynch Mob Escorted By Policemen; The Call Exposes Truth

Governor Orders Lynch Probe

THE CALL
Southwest's Leading Weekly
VOL. 23—NO. 41 ★ KANSAS CITY, MO., JANUARY 30, 1942 ★ PRICE 10 CENTS

Crime a 'Blot on The State'

Donnell Asks Indictment of Mob Members

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Governor Forrest C. Donnell Sunday night, wrought up over the report of the inhuman killing and burning of Cleo Wright in Sikeston, termed the act "a disgraceful blot on the state of Missouri," and ordered an immediate probe.

The governor was called at his home by telephone and informed of the lynching. He went to his office immediately and telephoned Sikeston officials who told him they feared a race riot. He ordered highway patrolmen to go on immediate duty and asked the sheriff of Scott county to deputize "as many assistants as would be necessary to preserve order."

In a telephone conversation with the governor Prosecuting Attorney David Blanton suggested that a grand jury be called for an investigation. The governor offered the assistance of the attorney general's office.

Gov. Donnell issued the following statement:

"Regardless of how guilty a person may be, he is entitled to a fair trial in a court of justice. Cleo Wright was not an exception to this rule. The action of today's mob in taking the law into its own hands is a disgraceful blot on the State of Missouri.

"Every possible effort must be made to bring to justice all who took any part in this cruel violence. I am confident the Prosecuting Attorney will use every effort to that end. It is my earnest desire that a searching and thorough investigation be immediately made, that an indictment of every person whom the grand jury shall deem to have had any part, whether great or small, in this mob violence be returned, and that prompt trial of each and every such person shall be had."

'Got What Was Coming to Him'

Although Governor Donnell has termed the lynching a disgrace and ordered an investigation, the local Sikeston newspaper made the following comment:

"To our way of thinking the least investigation made of those connected with the lynching of the Negro man Sunday will be for the best, as he got what was coming to him. If any one should be indicted for complicity, no jury in Southeast Missouri would dare convict him."

C. L. Blanton is editor of the Sikeston Standard.

No Basis for Cry of Rape, For Dead Men Tell No Tales

Mrs. Sturgeon Said No Demand Was Made of Her

What were the circumstances that preceded the lynching of Cleo Wright?

That is the question which will probably go down in black books of lynching history as a mystery, for dead men tell no tales.

Reports of the first such mob violence in 1942, vary. Stories from some sources give attempted rape as Wright's crime, and others say it was burglary.

Cleo Wright, 26, broke into the Sturgeon home, located about a mile from the Negro district, about 1:30 a. m. Sunday, January 25. Sleeping in the bedroom he entered were Mrs. Dillard Sturgeon and a sister-in-law, Mrs. John Sturgeon. The husbands of the women are in the army. They awoke when the window was raised. At this point, versions of the story differ.

Wright is said to have ordered them to keep quiet, or he would kill them. When they ran screaming from the room, he slashed Mrs. Dillard Sturgeon with his knife. The sister ran from the house shouting for help, and a neighbor, H. D. Davenport, came rushing to the home armed with a corn knife and tried to catch the intruder. Wright, however, had fled. They found the wounded woman and police were called to the scene. The white woman's son, James, 8, was asleep in another room throughout the episode.

WRIGHT CUT POLICE OFFICER IN THE FACE

Officer Hess Perrigan, 37, responded to the call to police headquarters. After hearing the stories of the two women, the officer picked up another neighbor, Jesse Whitely, and they drove toward the Negro district.

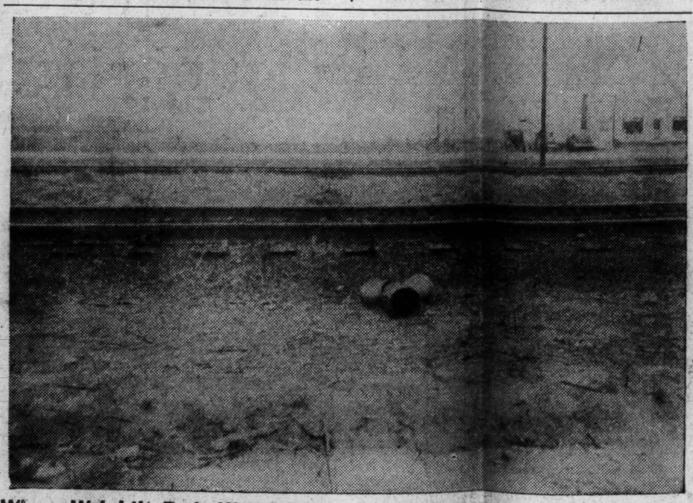
Perrigan said that after leaving the Sturgeon home, he and Whitely cruised for a few minutes looking for the suspect. They travelled out highway 60 toward Charleston, then went south on 61 to the Cotton Oil Mill company. Near the Frisco railroad tracks, they saw a man

(Continued On Page 24)



Wife Dying Man Called For—

Mrs. Ardella Wright, left, and her mother, Mrs. Minnie Gay, wife and mother-in-law of Cleo Wright who was lynched at Sikeston, Mo., Sunday, Jan. 25. While he was in the basement of the Sikeston general hospital (there are no beds for Negroes) dying from bullet wounds inflicted by a policeman prior to the the lynching, Wright called for his wife who is an expectant mother.



Where Wright's Body Was Burned

After the mob which lynched Cleo Wright had dispersed and the charred body removed, Negro citizens of Sunset, the Negro community of Sikeston, Mo., somebody who lives in Sunset, the Negro community of Skieston, placed three tin cans on the spot where Wright's head lay during the orgy. The cans were used to pour the gasoline over the body.

—McKibben photo.

Prosecuting Attorney Says Identification Of Mobbists Difficult

SIKESTON, Mo. — State highway patrolmen withdrew from the Sunset community in the southwest section here Tuesday after feelings had subsided since Sunday's lynching.

Meanwhile Prosecuting Attorney David Blenton announced that he and other officials have been questioning several persons with regards to Sunday's mob action. He said the grand jury investigation will be held "just as quickly as we are ready for it."

"I had intended to make the investigation before I received word from the Governor.

"Of course, the law has been violated and we are very interested in finding the persons responsible, but under circumstances like these it is a tough job. It isn't easy to get a man to testify against his friend or neighbor. Likewise, many people in the crowd were curiosity seekers. When you take a case into court you have to have evidence, not hearsay.

"Granted that justice has been thwarted in this matter, we do not want to compound injustice by prosecuting innocent people."

Blanton said several possible leads to the mob leaders were being followed, but it will take several more days, he said, before the inquiry is complete.

FINDINGS TO COURT

"When the investigation is finished," he said, "we will lay our findings before the Circuit Court, which, if it thinks warranted, can order a special grand jury session."

Blanton said that in his opinion, the lynching was the result of flaming anger by patriotic citizens against a man who had attacked the wife of a man serving his country, rather than hatred for the Negro population, which constitutes about 500 of Sikeston's 9,000 citizens.

"I believe the same thing might have happened if a white man had been involved," he said. "The fact that this Negro had a bad reputation and had previously served time in prison for burglary and larceny aggravated the case."

Negroes Not Without Protection

The Negro residents of Sikeston were not without protection. And they were not wholly dependent upon the state patrolmen who were sent into the Sunset addition to guard the Negroes. Many a Negro property owner has his own firearms and ammunition ready to protect his home if invaded. There was no aggression on the part of the Negro property-owners. They were prepared only for self-defense.

Patrols of Negro men stationed themselves Sunday night at the five entrances to the Negro community to keep out any would-be molesters.

Sikeston Sidelights

No Inquest

SIKESTON, Mo.—There was no inquest for the body of Cleo Wright, burned by a mob here Sunday. The first lynch victim of 1942 was denied even this formality where it is usually found that lynch victim met death at the hands of "unknown party or parties."

The charred nude body of Wright lay in the dirt near the railroad track for five hours after it was soaked with five gallons of gasoline and burned.

A city official asked the one Negro undertaking company to remove the body. Mrs. Matie Smith, the owner, told him that she would have the body removed only after the coroner had been summoned and the mob had been ordered to leave. As the coroner was not called, Mrs. Smith refused to touch the body, following lawful procedure.

After dark, a city dump truck moved the body, taking it to the city hall where it was kept over night. It was buried Monday without ceremony in a pine box in potter's field.

Leave Lynchers' Property

A business man who was said to have been a member of the mob owns property in the Sunset addition. The Negro families who rented his houses all moved out Monday. They doubled up with friends and relatives, some of them leaving the community altogether.

Families Move Out

Monday and Tuesday were moving days in Sunset. About a third of the families which live in the area moved away. They boarded busses, trains and left by auto for points south or to St. Louis. Many got only as far as Charleston, 14 miles away.

The families which left the city permanently are those known as "floaters." They are seasonal residents of Sikeston, going there during the cotton-picking season and leaving when they hear of another job.

None of the families which own property have moved and have no intention of doing so. "We haven't done anything. Why should we give up the home we have paid for?" they asked and rightly so.

Many men sent their wives and children away but stayed themselves to protect their homes.

Mills Close for a Day

The Sikeston Cotton Oil Mill company, where a large number of Sikeston Negroes are employed, did not operate Monday because the colored workers did not report for duty. They stayed at home to protect their property from possible invasion. The mill was in operation Tuesday with most of the men back on the job.

The Sikeston Cotton Compress

(Continued on Page 4)

Writer's Investigation Shows Officials Could Have Prevented Killing

Cotton Mill Worker Lay Injured on Cot In Room Without Protection of Iron Bars When Mob Stormed Jail

Immediately after learning about the lynching in Sikeston, Mo., THE CALL sent two reporters to the lynch town to get a first-hand account for its readers. Here is the report of the reporters who spent two days in the Southeast Missouri area.

SIKESTON, Mo.—The lynching of Cleo Wright could have been prevented. The plan to drag him over the streets in the Negro community and then burn him alive was known beforehand and could have been stopped had the officers of the law used the resources at their command. There was plenty of time to call for state troops. There was plenty of time and opportunity to spirit Wright away.

Two hours before Wright was lynched in front of the First Baptist church and the Lincoln junior high school, a city policeman and a state patrolman drove through the Negro community ordering Negroes seen on the street to go indoors and stay there.

"There's going to be a little demonstration down here and we don't want you to get hurt," the officers told the Negroes. One of them was heard to say, "We're going to have a little fun. You'd better get inside."

Some of the Negro citizens went indoors, particularly those with children. But others stayed where they were and saw the whole disgraceful procedure.

Paved Way for Mob

Had the "peace" officers used half as much effort and spent as much time in trying to protect Cleo Wright as they did in paving the way for the mob, there would have been no lynching.

Accounts in daily newspapers that the chief of police and state patrolmen did everything in their power to hold off the mob are regarded as "pure bunk" in the Sunset addition where Sikeston's Negro population lives. It is a segregated colony of frail wooden shacks with mud streets on the west end of town just north of the Missouri Pacific railroad tracks.

A Negro who witnessed the lynching from its beginning until the charred body of Wright was removed five hours after it was set afire described what he saw.

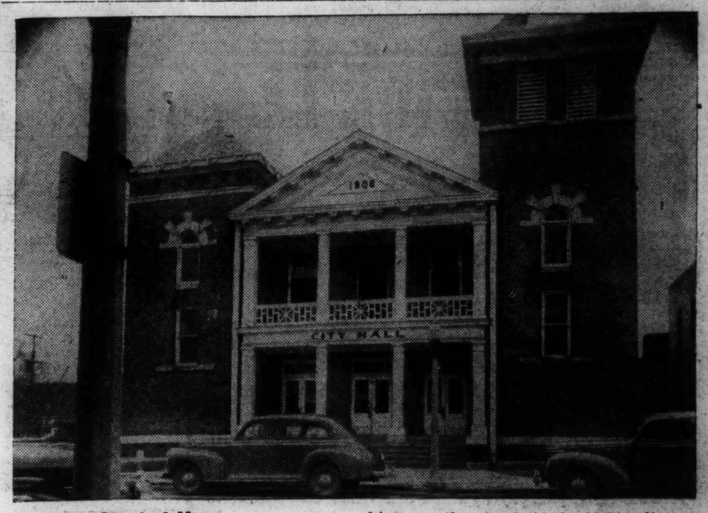
" A state policeman led the mob through Sunset. Not all of the streets, just the main ones. The officers must have been in on it because a state police car was in front. Then came the truck dragging Cleo's body.

"Then there were four cars of state policemen. I don't know how many cars came afterward. One of the state policemen hollered at me, "Get in the house! But I didn't go nowhere. I just stood off apiece and watched.

"They went around Maude street by the tracks, went down three or four blocks and then came back around Front street. They stopped in front of the school house by the tracks and untied Cleo.

"I saw a fellow go to the filling station on the corner and get five gallons of gasoline. He handed it to another man who poured it on Cleo. Another fellow struck a match and threw it in Cleo's mouth.

(Continued on Page 24)



Lynching Started Here—

The city hall of Sikeston, Mo., from where a mob of 300 white persons took the dying Cleo Wright, dragged him over the streets in the Negro district and burned him. The jail is in the rear of the city hall.

—McKibben photo.

For More Of The True Story Of Southeast Missouri's Disgrace See Page 24

Sikeston Paper Says Lynching Was Deserved

SIKESTON, Mo.—The Sikeston Standard, semi-weekly paper published here on Tuesdays and Fridays had this to say about the lynching of Cleo Wright:

"The mobbing of the Negro, Cleo Wright, Sunday forenoon, was an unfortunate incident, but was deserved. Here were two women whose husband were in the army, and an ex-convict who entered their bed room and attacked with a knife one of these women, then cut an officer. It was the feeling of those near the City Hall Sunday where the mob formed, that it was their duty to protect the wives of those soldier boys, and that was the thing that influenced the men.

"This should be a warning for bad Negroes to stay out of Sikeston. We have a large Negro population who are law abiding and good citizens and they will be given protection in every way. Over in Sunset Addition some bad Negroes have caused trouble at times in the past much to the regret of the good element, but this incident should be a solemn warning for the night prowlers to leave the community or be dealth with in a like manner."

Sikeston---

(Continued From Page 1)

and Wholesale company, most of whose employes are Negroes, did not run Monday either but was in full operation again Tuesday.

No School, Either

The Lincoln junior high school and grade school in front of which the lynching took place, did not hold classes Monday because the children did not report. On Tuesday, only 57 pupils out of the enrollment of 225 were present.

Many of the children had been evacuated from the town Sunday night, their parents sending them to relatives in Mississippi, Arkansas and other parts of Missouri for safe-keeping.

The school had just dedicated a new flag pole last Friday and a ceremony was held as the American flag was raised just east of the spot where two days later an American citizen was lynched by a mob.

All Whites Not Hostile

There are many white persons in Sikeston who do not condone the action of the lynch mob which burned the body of Cleo Wright after dragging it nude through the Negro community.

Some of the better class of white citizens feared for their Negro employes and gave them money to spend Sunday night outside of Sikeston. They took the attitude that no matter how guilty a person might be he is still entitled to a fair trial.

A Steady Worker

Although he did have a prison record, Cleo Wright was not considered a "bad egg" in his community. He was a hard, steady worker, employed as a case presser at the Sikeston Cotton Mill company. According to his white foreman, he was an efficient worker and never gave any trouble. He was employed at the mill before he went to the penitentiary and upon his release on parole was re-employed.

Wright was sentenced to two years in prison for stealing $14 from a business place where he was employed. He was paroled in February, 1941. He was not a churchgoer, but ministers in the community said that he was a "pretty nice sort of fellow." He has a mother and sister in Arkansas.

FIRST LYNCHING SINCE THE NATION ENTERED WAR

Wright's lynching marked the first in the nation for 1942, and the first since this nation entered the war and President Roosevelt called for unity and the loyal cooperation of all citizens. The lynching was the first in Missouri since 1933, the twenty-fourth since 1900. There have been a total of 91 lynchings in the state since 1889. It was the third in 11 years.

Southeast Missouri's most recent lynching before Sunday's atrocity was recorded on December 18, 1924, when a mob stormed the county jail at Charleston and removed and lynched a young man named Grigsby. This section is the area where treatment of sharecroppers and tenant farmers has been so harsh as to require federal action. Hundreds of sharecroppers were forced from their homes and onto the highway in the bitter cold of January, 1939.

PRESS SERVICE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

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February 13, 1942

DROP LYNCHING PROBE OR
FACE RACE RIOT, IS
SIKESTON, MO., THREAT

N.A.A.C.P. Investigators Find No Whites Who Saw Lynching Will Testify; Town 'Closed to Outsiders'

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St. Louis, Mo.---White citizens in Sikeston will not testify against each other in any prosecution for guilt in the lynching of Cleo Wright there January 25, and they use the threat of a race riot to prevent further investigation and publicity.

These facts came out in an investigation for and report to the NAACP made last week by Mr. and Mrs. L. Benoist Tompkins of this city who spent 24 hours in Sikeston four days after the lynching, questioning leading whites in the community and leading Negroes in Sunset Addition, the Negro ghetto.

Mob Was "Just Folks"

The make-up of the mob was described as being "just folks.... not like our last lynching...done by the upper classes." Southeast Missouri's last lynching was in Mississippi County, December 18,1924, when a mob stormed the jail and took out a Negro accused of raping a white girl.

Fear of Negroes, the need to "keep the Negro in his place" and the feudal nature of southeast Missouri, where a very few people own all the land and the rest are vassals, are behind the story of the brutal lynching, the Tompkinses reported.

"Along with this feeling runs a genuine fear of the Negro's physical violence. 'Negroes are naturally vicious,' they said, 'with less control over their emotions.' It follows that 'violence is necessary to keep them subservient'. It also follows that killing a Negro is not a crime like killing a white man, because the Negro is closer to brute than to an independent human individual with human rights. There is a carry-over of feeling in Sikeston today that goes back to the old-time southern idea that 'every white man had to have several colored girls, and kill one nigger, before he became a man indeed.'"

The investigators said: "We were given the definite impression that the lynchers would not be ostracized by the community; on the other hand those who might testify against the lynchers would be ostracized. Even the most liberal man to whom we spoke said that had he witnessed the crime (which he had not) he would 'not be inclined to testify.'"

Negroes themselves are afraid to identify any of the mob even though they saw the entire proceedings and know those responsible.

One man in the Sunset Addition on being questioned by the Tompkinses was terrified and said he would not talk "to white folks". "We did not ask him to talk," the investigators stated, "because it

is clear that he does not have police protection in Sikeston."

Negroes "Too Cocky"

"One person suggested that the tensions between poor white and Negro labor might have some bearing on the lynching. The poor whites object to equality with the Negro even more than the wealthy ones. Racial feelings are more bitter among the poor, because 'if they can't feel superior to the Negro, what would they feel superior about?' Many of this class of workers were in the lynching crowd."

The report also revealed that the lynching of Cleo Wright was not an isolated incident, but that tension had been growing over a period of time. Feeling had been growing that Negroes were getting "too cocky".

"There is increasing feeling against labor unions organizing Negroes," the investigators said. "Negro labor is less subservient than white labor at present and employers do not expect this. With the threat of a labor shortage looming close, employers resent any encouragement to labor to become too courageous and demanding. Negroes have been the beasts of burden in southeast Missouri and since it is important to the economic set-up that they remain in this status, they are not encouraged to develop. The white people of southeast Missouri do not like independent Negroes. There was a growing feeling that they should be put back in the place where they belong."

In commenting on their report Mr. & Mrs. Tompkins observed:

"The Sikeston incident points to certain breakdowns in our legal system: Under our present laws, lynching, which is defined as murder, goes unpunished, because the crime is judged in local courts by those who themselves believe in lynching. Young Prosecuting Attorney Blanton will hardly sacrifice both his career and personal friends, by prosecuting those friends who elected him to office. Even the most liberal of the planters said he would 'not be inclined to testify.' A local grand jury cannot be expected to indict, when it may have on it some of those who were in the lynch mob. Not until prosecution and judgment are taken out of the local courts will there be any chance of exacting justice."

APPEAL IN OKLAHOMA MURDER CASE TO BE HEARD MARCH 4

2/13/42

Oklahoma City, Okla.---Trial on the appeal of W. D. Lyons from his conviction by the trial court at Hugo, January 31, 1941, will be held in the Criminal Court of Appeals of this state here, March 4.

Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the NAACP, and the first Negro lawyer ever to appear in the Hugo, Okla., court, will handle Lyons' case along with Stanley D. Belden.

It is expected to be brought out that Lyons, accused of the murder of three whites, was seized and prosecuted for political reasons and that his alleged "confession" was obtained by torture.

Lyons has been in jail for a year for a crime of which he claims to be innocent. Before his trial he was beaten and tortured with charred bones which he was told were those of the dead people, dragged in and out of the county jail and grilled unmercifully. Although he was accused of having brutally murdered a family of three, the trial court jury recommended mercy for him, and public sentiment among the Negro and white population of the area is that Lyons is innocent.

OVER 3,000 JAM SAVOY FOR NAACP BIRTHDAY BALL

2/13/42

New York---More than 3,000 persons jammed the Harlem's famed Savoy Ballroom Wednesday night, February 11, when the NAACP gave its 33rd NAACP Birthday Ball, with the bands of Lucky Millinder and the Savoy Sultans playing for one of the largest crowds ever to attend an anniversary dance.

Theme of the Ball was "For Equality in National Defense," and parties came from Philadelphia, New Jersey and the entire state of

New York.

A telegram of greeting from Walter White, NAACP secretary, who is in California, was read by Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary. Mr. White, expressing his regret at his inability to be present, said:"Your support will materially help the NAACP do a better job during the war crisis and the critical post-war period."

Other anniversary celebrations are being held by NAACP branches throughout the country during the week.

RIGHT TO VOTE INVOLVED
IN CASE SET FOR FEB. 18 2/13/42

Anderson, S.C. --- The right of qualified colored citizens to vote in primary elections will be involved in the case of the United States vs. Ellis, et al, to be heard here Wednesday, February 18. Defendants are F. E. Ellis, John E. Wright and T. E. Meetze, election judges charged with conspiracy in refusing to permit Mrs. Lottie P. Gaffney and three other women to register and vote in the presidential primary.

The case has been pending since August, 1940, when Mrs. Gaffney and the others first asked the assistance of the NAACP in prosecuting the election judges. The case was referred to the United States Department of Justice early in September, 1940, and was investigated by the Department, upon whose findings and indictment was drawn by the local U. S. Attorney which was presented to a federal grand jury on May 26, 1941. This grand jury found no bill, but the case was again presented to the federal grand jury sitting in November. This time indictments were returned against the defendants. The trial Wednesday is expected to set a precedent for cases of this kind.

CHATTANOOGA GETS
1129 NAACP MEMBERS 2/13/42

Chattanooga, Tenn.--In the NAACP membership drive recently closed here 1129 persons have joined the organization, according to reports from the local branch and Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin, NAACP field secretary, who directed the drive.

This has been one of the most successful campaigns for the NAACP in this city for many years.

WHITE PRESTIGE SUFFERS
WALTER WHITE TELLS
U. OF CALIFORNIA 2/13/42

Berkley, Cal.---White prestige is being lessened in the world each day until the Japanese are defeated, Walter White, NAACP secretary told the convocation of students and faculty members of the University of California at the observance of Lincoln's birthday here.

"The dark forces of greed, based on skin color, continue to work their evil way in the world," Mr. White said. "Part of Japan's theory as to the United States is due to our condescending and sometimes comtemptuous attitude toward the Japanese because their skins are yellow and not white.

"After Pearl Harbor Negroes were ready to give their lives for their country. They were told in a curt reply by the Navy that there could be no change in regulations which might have raised them from a position of menials."

Mr. White also lead a discussion group at the International House at the University of California here February 15, and on February 17, addressed the convocation of the University of California at Los Angeles in that city. He will continue his tour of the Pacific Coast visiting NAACP branches and other groups.

WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT)

X-1700

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

For Immediate Release
Friday, July 31, 1942

N-83

The Department of Justice announced that a Federal Grand Jury sitting at St. Louis, Mo., yesterday handed up a special report in the Sikeston lynching case describing the occurrence as a "shameful outrage" and censuring the Sikeston police force for having "failed completely to cope with the situation."

The report states that the Grand Jury sought to determine whether any Federal statutes had been violated, but "with great reluctance, has come to the conclusion that the facts disclosed do not constitute any Federal offense." No indictments were returned.

The case, which involved the lynching of Cleo Wright, Negro, by a mob at Sikeston, Mo., on the night of January 25, went to the Federal Grand Jury on May 13. Representing the Government was Jacob M. Lashly, of St. Louis, a former president of the American Bar Association. Deliberations have continued since that time except for a recess between July 3 and July 20.

Attorney General Francis Biddle, acting upon the recommendation of Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge, in charge of the Criminal Division, ordered an FBI investigation of the Wright lynching on February 13. On February 28, at the request of Governor Forrest C. Donnell of Missouri, the preliminary report of the FBI was made available to the Governor for his use in making the presentment on a charge of murder to the Grand Jury of Scott County, Mo. This Grand Jury failed to indict.

In his letter transmitting the report to Governor Donnell, the Attorney General pointed out that the Department reserved the right to institute Federal proceedings if, at a later date, this course should seem desirable. In consequence of the failure of the local Grand Jury to return an indictment, a Federal Grand Jury investigation was ordered on May 13. The special report handed up yesterday is the result of the deliberations of this Grand Jury.

The full text of the report is as follows:

The members of your grand jury have finished a painstaking and exhaustive inquiry into the alleged lynching of a Negro citizen at Sikeston, Missouri on Sunday, January 25, 1942. The evidence showed that this Negro, after breaking into the home of the wife of a National Guardsman away at war, in the middle of the night, had dangerously slashed the woman across the abdomen and then had seriously stabbed the policeman who arrested him. In the course of the arrest the Negro was shot four times and was pronounced at the point of death by the attending physician.

The grand jury and its legal advisors questioned long and searchingly many witnesses from Sikeston and vicinity in an attempt to determine whether any federal statute had been violated by the members of the mob, but finally, with great reluctance, has come to the conclusion that the facts disclosed do not constitute

any federal offense.

The members of this grand jury feel it a duty, however, to say to Your Honor, so that the people of Sikeston and the people of the State of Missouri may be informed correctly, that we consider this outbreak not only a shameful outrage against the rights which all Americans hold dear, but also a deplorable blot upon the reputation of this State as a law-abiding, peace-loving commonwealth. No more useless violence ever was committed, inasmuch as the facts disclosed if the Negro was not already dead when taken from the authorities, he would have been dead within a short time.

It is our considered judgment that the sergeant and troopers of the State Highway Patrol did a fine job--much more than the letter of their duties required. The Police Department of Sikeston, from the evidence, appears to be no stronger and probably no weaker than the average for a community of that size. It caught the criminal quickly, efficiently and courageously, but from there on failed completely to cope with the situation. The sheriff is located miles away at the County seat, and his deputies, after the usual Missouri fashion, are scattered. Although the evidence shows he got one deputy and started promptly when called by the Highway Patrol sergeant, the mob had achieved its purpose before he reached Sikeston.

Although this is a federal grand jury, without state jurisdiction, we believe it our duty respectfully to suggest to the Governor and the members of the next legislature of Missouri that earnest study be given to the functioning of the various law enforcement agencies which dealt with this mob to see whether steps can not be taken to prevent a recurrence anywhere in the State of such a tragic break-down of the protections of government.

It does seem to the members of this body that if exclusive jurisdiction in lynching situations is to be retained by the State, machinery should be set up to train the law enforcement officers of the smaller communities and rural sections and to provide for speedy coordination of the various city, county and state agencies when an emergency arises which is beyond the capacity or competence of the purely local authorities. The rights and liberties of Missourians and the good name of their State deserve more effective protection.

In this instance a brutal criminal was denied due process. The next time a mob might lynch a person entirely innocent. But whether the victim be guilty or innocent, the blind passion of a mob can not be substituted for due process of law if orderly government is to survive.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1942

File 37A

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Attorney General Francis Biddle announced today that he had ordered an FBI investigation into the lynching of William Vinson, Negro, by a mob at Texarkana, Texas, on July 20. 1942

According to information in the hands of the Civil Rights Section of the Department of Justice, Vinson is alleged to have attempted to rape a white woman at the Red River Ordnance Depot trailer camp, near Texarkana. While being captured he was shot and critically wounded. He was then taken to the Texarkana Hospital for treatment where, it is charged, he was left without a guard or police protection.

It is reported that in the early morning hours of the following day a mob of approximately 50 men entered the hospital, took Vinson from his bed, tied one end of a rope around his neck and the other end to the rear bumper of an automobile, and dragged him through the streets of the town. When the cavalcade of several automobiles reached the grounds of the Texarkana Cotton-Oil Corporation, Vinson's body was hanged from a winch on the loading platform.

The investigation ordered by the Attorney General is for the purpose of determining whether the identity of the lynchers can be learned and whether they can be prosecuted under the Federal Civil Rights Statutes.

X-1700

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

For Immediate Release
Friday, July 31, 1942

N-83

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The case, which involved the lynching of Cleo Wright, Negro, by a mob at Sikeston, Mo., on the night of January 23, went to the Federal Grand Jury on May 13. Representing the Government was Jacob M. Lashly, of St. Louis, a former president of the American Bar Association. Deliberations have continued since that time except for a recess between July 3 and July 20.

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X-5029 N-202

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

For Immediate Release
Tuesday, October 20, 1942

Attorney General Biddle said today he had ordered an investigation of the Mississippi lynchings by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"Assuming investigation develops a case, relentless prosecution will follow," the Attorney General said.

The victims of the lynchings were Howard Wash, 45, of Laurel, Miss., who had already been convicted of murder, and two 14-year-old boys, Charles Lang and Ernest Green, both of Shubuta.

The boys were taken from the Quitman jail, where they had been held on charges of attempted assault of a white girl, and hanged by a mob from a river bridge in a woods section on October 11. It was the seventh reported lynching in the Shubuta locality in recent years.

Wash had been convicted by a jury of killing his dairyman employer, and the jury had disagreed as to whether he should be sentenced to hang or go to prison for life. He was taken from the Jones county jail October 17, and hanged from a bridge eight miles from Laurel.

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LYNCHING ! !

A Fifth Column Attack On National Unity

Chicago Defender

By JOSEPH JOHNSON

WHAT HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT LYNCHING

Chicago, Ill.

Article II

OCT 10 1942

THE LYNCHERS, their defenders, and apologists have used every means at their disposal, including the Congress of the United States, to spread throughout this country and the world the idea that the origin of lynching in the South was due to the need to protect white women and girls from Negro men who raped them. John Temple Graves is unrivaled as a defender of lynching for he declared:

"The crime which begot lynching was a crime against southern womanhood—a crime blacker than arson and deadlier than assassination—a crime besides which murder is a misdemeanor and death a holiday—a crime that killed thrice and each death without a resurrection—a crime that blasted memory while it murdered reputation—a crime unspeakable and unthinkable this side the gates of hell.

"Long years after the fiery vengeance of outraged society had visited this crime with its swift and fearful Nemesis, it vented itself upon lessor atrocities. Lawlessness is progressive, and the hand that slew for woman's murdered honor, found it easier to hang in time for man's life and the burning of his home. But the crime of lynching had its origin and genesis in the unspeakable horror and unspeakable indignation of a chivalric people for a monstrous outrage against the mothers, the wives and the daughters of the race."—*1

Thomas Everette Cochran said: "I suppose that one of the commonest, if not the most common, justification for the practice of lynching in this country is rape or the ravishing of white women. It was here that lynching, in its post-bellum days, had its evil origin."—*2

OCT 10 1942

The "Southern White Women" meeting in a conference protested vigorously against lynching violence as an excuse for protecting them. Yet, in the first phrase of a resolution embodying their general ideas about lynching they, nevertheless, declared:

"Whereas, lynching at one time practiced only as punishment by the mob for the violation of womanhood . . ."—*3

The statements given concerning the origin of lynching are not without support from those sources which have the weight of authority. Walter Lynwood Fleming, for example, has this to say as one of the four reasons that he gives for the origin of lynching:

". . . the occurrence of the crime of rape by negro men upon white women."—*4

Graves, the foremost defender and apologist for lynching, made his statement more than a quarter of a century ago. It is still the basic argument of the defenderes of and apologists for lynching today. Mrs Dixie Graves, in her maiden speech in the Senate, declared:

"In the South, lynching originated where helpless women and children in isolated sections were victims of the most brutal of all crimes. Men, incensed by such outrages, would band themselves together occasionally and inflict summary punishment upon the criminals."—*5

Such are the views of the defenders of lynching. What are some of the replies of the Negro people? At every stage in the development of the struggle for freedom and justice the Negro people have never been found wanting in waging a determined fight against their enemies and slanderers. In this instance also, the Negro people came forward, in the persons of two individuals, as their greatest defenders from the slanders of the defenders and apologists for lynching. One was a woman; the other was a man.

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We shall call upon the greatest Negro woman since the days of Harriett Tubman and Soujourner Truth first to give the answer of the Negro people to the loathsome charge of the lynchers, their defenders and apologists. The Literary Digest tells us that: "Her lectures in New York and Brooklyn, and her interviews in the newspapers of these cities have provoked considerable discussion in the press. One remark of Miss Wells (Miss Ida B. Wells—J.J.) has attracted special attention." Miss Wells had said that she was interested in seeing "that the Negro shall have a fair trial when charged with crime, and not made the scapegoat of a white man's crime, or a white woman's falsehood."

"Asked by a southern correspondent of the New York Sun to explain the meaning of this remark, Miss Wells made these statements:

"'I mean to say that Negroes have been known to be the scapegoats for white men's crimes. It is only necessary for a white man to blacken his face when he commits a crime, throw the suspicion on the first Negro he meets, follow him up until he is lynched, and then enjoy his stolen goods. The white criminals of the South know that no investigation will be made when suspicion is thrown on a Negro. No opportunity will be given the black man. The real criminal has only to lead the mob, or rest content until the man he has accused is dead. That is what we mean by white men making scapegoats of the Negro.

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"'As to white women's falsehoods, a woman has only to accuse a Negro to free herself of blame. In the South it is degradation of the lowest type to commit a sin with a black man, far worse than to err with one of your own race. It means loss of caste. The men will not believe it possible. We have villains among us, but it is slander as foul as it is false, to accuse Negro men of the monopoly of a crime of which southern white men have been so notorious, not only before, but since the war. My candid belief founded on investigation, is that four-fifths of the cases of so-called assault of white women by black men would be called adultery if the man was of the same race as the woman. Why should it be impossible to believe white women guilty of the same crime for which southern white men are notorious?'"—*6

The southern press bellowed like a bull. We turn now to learn what the man, the great Frederick Douglass, had to say. Again, we avail ourselves of the **Literary Digest** and read there the statements:

"The first point to which he refers is the charge that the Negro freed from the restraints of slavery is so prone to the gratification of his lusts as to justify to a great extent the summary punishment meted out in the form of lynching. Mr. Douglass denies the charge on three grounds:

"'The first ground is, the well-established and well-tested character of the Negro on the very point upon which he is now so violently and persistently accused. I contend that his whole history, in bondage and out of bondage, contradicts and gives the lie to the allegation. My second ground for doubt and denial is based upon what I know of the character and antecedents of the men and women who bring this charge against him. My third ground is the palpable unfitness of the mob to testify and which is the main witness in the case.

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"'I therefore affirm that a fierce and frenzied mob is not and ought not to be deemed a competent witness against any man accused of any crime whatever and especially the crime now in question. . . . At the outset, I challenge the credibility of the mob, and, as the mob is the main witness in the case against the Negro I appeal from the judgment of the mob to the judgment of law-abiding men, in support of my challenge. I lay special emphasis on the fact that it is the mob and the mob only that the country has recognized and accepted as its accredited wtiness against the Negro. The mob is its law, its jury, and executioner. . . .

"'But I come to a stronger position, I rest my denial not merely upon general principles, but upon well-known facts.

"'I reject the charge brought against the Negro as a class, because all through the war, while the **slave-masters of the South were absent from their homes, in the field of rebellion, with bullets in their pockets, treason in their hearts, broad blades in their bloody hands, seeking the life of the Nation,** with the vile purpose of perpetuating the enslavement of the Negro, **their wives, their daughters, their sisters and their mothers were left in the absolute custody of these same Negroes,** and during **all** those four years of terrible conflict, when the Negro had **every** opportunity to commit the abominable crime now alleged against him, there was **never a single instance of such crime reported or charged against him. He was never accused of assault, insult or an attempt to commit an assault upon any white woman in the whole South.** A fact like this, though negative, speaks volumes and ought to have some weight with the American people on the present question.'"—*7

We have learned what the apologists for and the defenders of lynching have said and we have also learned the reply of the Negro people. Whom are we to believe? We should note well that the lynchers and their defenders say that the origin of lynching in the South was rape by Negro men upon white women and girls. Where shall we obtain the truth? Be sure to read the next article in this series appearing next week entitle: HOW LYNCHING BEGAN IN AMERICA.

OCT 10 1942

*1—The Chautauqua Press, **The Mob Spirit in America.**—A Symposium, John Temple Graves, "Mob Spirit in the South" (Chautauqua, New York: The Chautauqua Press, 1903), p. 13.

*2—**"The Lynching Problem in the United States"**—A Study in Causation and Prevention (Unpublished D.B. dissertation, faculty of the Graduate Divinity school—department of Practical Sociology, University of Chicago, 1915), p. 22.

*3—Commission on Interracial Cooperation, **Southern White Women on Lynching and Mob Violence** (Atlanta, Ga., Commission on Interracial Cooperation, "n.d.") p. 7, pamphlet.

*4—"Lynch Law," **Encyclopedia Britannica**, XIV, 526, 14th ed.

*5—Congressional Record, "Speech on Anti-Lynching Bill, Mrs. Dixie Graves, 75th Cong. 2nd Sess., 1937, p. 172.

*6—August 11, 1894, p. 421.

*7—August 4, 1894, p. 396 et seq. All emphasis mine.—J.J.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

LYNCHING!!

A Fifth Column Attack On National Unity

OCT 31 1942

By JOSEPH JOHNSON

THE REASON FOR LYNCHING FROM 1866 TO THE PRESENT

Article V

WE HAVE DISCOVERED up to now that the charge of rape by Negro men upon white women as the origin of lynching made by the lynchers, their defenders, and apologists is utterly false. But, they insist that they mean not before but since the Civil War. For example, Cochran tells us:

"I suppose that one of the commonest if not the most common justification for the practice of lynching in this country is rape or the ravishing of white women. It was here that lynching in its post-bellum days had its evil origin."—*1

Let us examine the political situation in the South during the ten years following the Civil War, that is, from 1866 to 1876. This period can be divided into three stages in the development of lynching in the post-war South. The first stage (the preparatory stage) was the restoration of political control to the remnants of the slaveowners and the newly rising master class by President Johnson. The second stage (the origin of lynching in the post-war South) was the setting up of Reconstruction governments by the Committee of Fifteen under the leadership of Thaddeus Stevens. The third stage was the overthrow of the Reconstructed governments and the final victory of reaction (continuation of lynching under a new guise).

The enemies of the people in the Southern States had a firm grip on the political machinery of those states from 1865 to 1866. In the beginning of 1867 that situation was changed abruptly by the Committee of Fifteen.

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Congress, under the guidance of the Committee of Fifteen, refused to admit the late insurrectionary states into the Union on the basis of the easy provisions made by President Johnson. It laid down new conditions for the readmittance of those states the practical effect of which was to wrest political control from the hands of the Bourbons, by extending the right of franchise to the poor whites and above all to the freed Negroes. That development caused the Bourbons in the southern states to retreat only to reorganize their then demoralized ranks so as to attack more furiously.

They organized and directed a secret semi-military, political, terrorist organization aimed at the destruction of the Reconstducted governments based on Negro suffrage. **That organization was the Ku Klux Klan.** The Bourbon organized, controlled, and directed Ku Klux Klan to loose a reign of lynch terror against poor whites, sympathizers and friends of Negroes, and first of all Negroes—to drive them out of the political life of the southern states—unparalleled in the history of our country.

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The Bourbons used two methods by which they caused the majority of the "poorer classes of white men" to resort to lynch violence against Negroes and the poor whites who participated with them in the Reconstructed governments. In this connection the statement of J. R. Smith, a native of the state of Mississippi, who had been postmaster for five years and was at the time of his testimony; and who also was and had been clerk of the chancery court during the year before; and who was himself a poor white, will supply part of the required information as follows:

Ques.—How do they (the Bourbons—J. J.) talk on this subject?

Ans.—They put it in very plain terms. They say the object of the ...government is to put the negro in control, to make a sort of negro supremacy, to give him the control of the affairs of the government, to put him in office and gradually to force him into social relations with the white people. That is the argument they make use of, **to the exclusion of almost every other argument, when they come before the poorer class of the white people** (my emphasis—J. J.). That has been the case for the last three years, and it does affect the opinion of a large number of the poor white men who are really and honestly.... friends of the government. But that thing is pressed upon them so strenuously by these leaders (the Bourbons—J. J.) that it has had its effect.—*2

The remarks of Judge Bond, who presided over the trial that lasted for 29 days of the Klansmen in the Ku Klux Klan conspiracy in South Carolina when 17 members of the Ku Klux Klan pleaded guilty and threw themselves on the mercy of the court, will supply the remainder of the information sought. Judge Bond, in addressing the indicted persons before him, said in part:

"It will appear strange to your fellow-countrymen who read your story, and that of your confederates, however willing they may be to believe you, that **so large a portion of the young white men** (emphasis mine—J. J.) of young country can be in such **a state of abject slavery to the men of property above them,** as to be willing to commit murder at their command.

"....It only needs a little manliness and courage on the part of you **ignorant dupes of designing men** (emphasis mine—J. J.) to give supremacy to the law. Be assured it will not be taken as an excuse in your case or in any other to hear it said, 'I slew this man because the chief ordered it, and I was afraid, and 'brushed' (that is, whipped—J. J.) and raped these others because I dreaded to be whipped if I did not.—*3

Concerning the appalling nature of the lynching acts of the Ku Klux Klan, Judge Bond further declared:

"There is abundant proof of the nature and character of the conspiracy. Evidence of nightly raids by bands of disguised men, who broke into the houses of negroes and dragged them from their beds—parents and children—and, tying them to trees, unmercifully beat them, is exhibited in every case. Murder and rape are not unfrequent accompaniments....The persons upon whom these atrocities are committed are almost always colored people. Whatever excuse is given for a raid, its conclusion was almost always accompanied by a rebuke for the former exercise of the suffrage, and a warning as to the future exercise of the right to vote."—*4

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On the basis of the testimony of J. R. Smith and the first remarks of Judge Bond, it is clear that the Bourbons did not hesitate to use deception and violence against "the poorer class of the white people" to force them to do their bidding in smashing the Reconstructed governments. The fundamental problem in the reconstruction of the southern states was the problem of land. If the poor whites and especially the freed Negroes had been in possesion of the land they would have been economically independent of the southern Bourbons. It was because of that fact that a fierce struggle was waged about the land, particularly by the freed Negroes not only to retain possession of the little land they held but also to extend their possessions of the land On the other hand, however, the Bourbons waged a struggle no less fierce, not only to break what grip the freed Negroes had on the land but also to force them to work the land on the Bourbons terms. The means necessary to accomplish that task in each case were the political means. Hence the primary struggle in the southern states was and is to the present time the political struggle.

If the Bourbons had been in possession of the political machinery of the southern states, even if the poor whites and especially the freed Negroes had had all the land, they could, by the enactment of laws and the exercise of the police power of the state governments, make the groups untenable. If, however, the possession of the land by these poor whites and above all the freed Negroes participated in the political affairs of the southern states they would have been in a position to block any such move by the Bourbons.

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The reason for lynching from 1866 to the present time was the result of the contradiction on the one hand of the attempt to promote the interests of the poor whites and above all of the freed Negroes, by extending to them the democratic principle of the right of franchise, which was against the interests of the Bourbons; and the attempt on the other hand of the southern Bourbons to regain their former dominance of the political affairs of the southern states, which was against the interests of the poor whites and the freed Negroes particularly, by the frustration of the right to vote.

There arose out of that contradiction the antagonism of the insistence on the side of the enfranchised groups to maintain their enfranchisement; and the determination on the other side of the southern Bourbons to destroy that enfranchisement by using lynch violence against a portion of the poor whites and in the first place against the freed Negroes for exercising their right to vote.

We now define **LYNCHING from 1866 to the present time as the organized and directed extra-legal violence—whipping; shooting (wounding); killing by shooting, hanging, burning, cutting a person's throat, drowning, and gutting (disemboweling); and castrating and raping individuals—by a portion, sometimes the majority, of the members of the social community, acting under the influence AND in accordance with the property interests of the former slaveowners and the newly rising master class.**

We can say now finally and conclusively that there is not, nor has there ever been, any basis in American social historical development for the charge that "lynching had its origin and genesis in the unspeakable horror and unspeakable indignation of a chivalric people for the monstrous outrage against the mothers, the wives and the daughters of the race."—*5 It is a cruel and monstrous deception to have practiced on the "mothers, the wives and the daughters of the race" by having them believe that lynching came into existence as a protective measure for them, when as a matter of irrefutable historical fact their protection was not the fundamental, or even secondary, consideration that cause the lynching violence of their "protectors." There has been given here **the proof for the first time** that the lynchers, their defenders, and apologists have lied and continue to tell a lie about the origin of lynching to stigmatize the Negro people which in the language of Miss Ida B. Wells, "is as foul as it is false."

Who organized the fight against lynching? When will lynching end? About how many lynchings have occurred? For the answer, read next week's article entitled: The Fight Against Lynching and the Threat of Lynching.

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*1—Cochran, See Article II of this series. The emphasis is mine—J. J.

*The principal source of its deeds of violence as a fully organized body which lasted for six years—1866-1871 inclusively—is set forth in a Congressional Investigation of thirteen volumes. All mention of material from this source will be referred to simply as The Joint Select Committee.

*2—The Joint Select Committee, J. R. Smith, testimony of, Washington, D. C., June 27, 1871, Mississippi, XI, 76.

*3—Ibid., Judge Bond, remarks of Trials at Columbia, South Carolina—November 28, 1871 to January 5, 1872—South Carolina, V, 1984.

*4—Ibid., 1988.

*5—Graves, See Article II in this series.

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LYNCHING ! !

A Fifth Column Attack On National Unity

By JOSEPH JOHNSON

Article VI

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IN THIS SERIES on lynching, the real reason for the social practice of lynching has been laid bare for the first time. There remains now the need to explain the first and last measures necessary to put an end to lynching and the threat of lynching.

The fight against lynching has gone on for many years. One of the most important facts to remember about the fight against lynching in America is that it was first organized and directed by a woman—a Negro woman—and was first brought to public attention in the following account:

"An effort was made at this time, 1893 to so organize foreign public opinion that it would be directly effective in putting an end to the practice of lynching. Miss Ida B. Wells, colored, who was editor of the FREE SPEECH published at Memphis, Tenn., and whose paper was suppressed because she so fiercely denounced the lynching of some colored young men and arraigned the authorities for failing to punish the lynchers, gave a series of lectures in England in 1893-1894, and started a crusade against lynching by organizing anti-lynching societies enrolling as members several men of international prominence.

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"These bodies proposed to send a committee to this country 'to collect statistics and quietly to investigate the subject of lynchings in the United States.' The South rose en masse against such a visit and the governors of the southern states with one or two exceptions vehemently denounced the whole project. The statement of Governor O'Ferrall of Virginia, himself an anti-lynching man, is typical of the southern sentiment. 'Things have come to a pretty pass in this country,' he said in the New York World, 'when we are to have a lot of English moralists sticking their noses into our internal affairs. It is the quintessence of brass and impudence.' The English committee never came to this country, and Miss Wells at length recognized the futility of further work in England and returned home. She organized anti-lynching societies in various parts of the North and a chairman of the anti-lynching Bureau of the National Agro-American Council, to all appearances worked principally among her own people, urging them to take steps to prevent lynching.

"Out of all this discussion, agitation, and censure there came proposals for various remedies for lynching. Various reasons were assigned for the prevalence of the practice and consequently there was little agreement in the measures which were proposed for its prevention or suppression, but most of the proposed measures were of the nature of new or additional laws directed specifically against lynching or mob violence."1

Thus it is clear that not only was the fight against lynching begun by a woman—a Negro woman, Miss Ida B. Wells—but the attempt to remedy the condition is essentially the same today as it was a result of her efforts fifty years ago (Miss Ida B. Wells began the crusade against lynching in March of 1892), that is, "additional laws" and more particularly, in recent years, Federal laws.

The most notable achievement that has been scored in the fight against lynching to date came as the result of vigor of Miss Wells' writing and the brilliance of her lectures in denouncing lynching and the lynchers. It would seem, on the basis of the material quoted above, that her lecture tour in England was a failure. Actually, such was not the case. As a result of the international storm caused by her lectures, several southern states passed anti-lynching laws! Two of them were Georgia and North Carolina.

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The Anti-Lynching Law of Georgia was passed by the General Assembly of the State of Georgia December 20, 1893. The provisions of that law are of interest. The Georgia Anti-Lynching Law provided that any officer of that state who had knowledge of an attempt of mob violence against any citizen was compelled to call to his assistance any citizen in the neighborhood or county to aid in suppressing the violence, if such assistance was needed; every possible means was to be used to prevent mob violence; any person "engaged in mobbing or lynching any citizen" was guilty of a felony and was to be committed to jail and if convicted such a person was to "be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary for a term of not less than one nor longer than 20 years; if, however, death resulted from such mob violence, "then the person or persons causing said death shall be subject to indictment and trial for the offense of murder under existing laws;" officers who failed to carry out their duty were subject to the penal code as well as persons who failed to assist officers when demand was made upon them to do so; officers could notify persons assisting them to bring firearms and they and the officers could use them, "in order to prevent human life from being taken by mob violence, take the life of any person or persons attempting mob violence, in order to prevent it; PROVIDED, life shall not be taken, unless it be necessary to save the life or lives of the person or persons being mobbed, or to protect lives of such arresting officers or his posse.

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The Anti-Lynching Law of North Carolina was passed by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, March 6, 1893. That law was in a general way like the Anti-Lynching Law of Georgia. There are, however, some privisions worth noting. It provided among other things that a conspiracy to break into jail, to kill prisoner was a felony; anyone convicted of such a felony was subject to a minimum fine of $500, minimum imprisonment of two years, and a maximum imprisonment of 15 years; "If (county—J. J.) commissioners fail to furnish guard and jail is broken and prisoner killed, county liable in damages to personal representative of deceased."

We have learned that the origin of lynching in 1866 and the basis of its continuance today was the destruction by the South Bourbons, in promoting their property interests, of the right of Negroes to elect freely and to be elected freely to public office at all and the restriction of the right of the poor whites to elect freely and to be elected freely to public office.

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Moreover, it should be remembered that VIGILANTISM, which is prevalent in the Western States and is practiced primarily against the migratory agricultural workers and is also practiced in many industrial regions in the East, the North, and the Middle West, is lynching. Since these two prases of the problem constitute the very essence of present-day lynching, **lynching is not exclusively a Negro problem,** although its most revolting practice is directed against Negroes. Negroes have been carrying on the fight against lynching virtually alone, since they general like most supposed that lynching was exclusively a Negro problem.

Now that the fundamental basis of lynching has been laid bare, it should not be hard to get liberals, progressives, and especially the trade unions (Vigilantism which is lynching is practiced against them) to fight relentlessly for the passage of Federal legislation against the social practice of lynching.

The Negro people need not go to those organizations and groups mentioned any longer begging, half-hearted, and ashamed to enlist their aid in the fight against lynching. They can go now confident in the knowledge that in fighting against the social practice of lynching **they have been fighting to preserve and extend the most fundamental principle of American democracy**—the right to vote.

Will the passage of such legislation put an end to lynching? It will for a time. But the important fact to remember in this connection is that the threat of lynching will remain. As long as the threat of lynching remains its reoccurrence is likely. What, then, is the ultimate step in the fight against lynching?

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Lynching and the threat of lynching will end finally only when we American people will have reached that level of social and political consciousness and thereby, acting in accordance with the task imposed upon us by history, will have, in common effort, reconstituted American life upon a newer higher social basis and will have brought to realization as a part of our everyday social existence Lincoln's immortal words when he spoke to "a committee from the Workingmen's Association of New York March 21, 1864" as follows:

"The most notable feature of a disturbance in your city last summer was the hanging of some working people by other working people. It should never be so. The strongest bond of human sympathy, outside the family relation, should be one uniting all working people, of all nations, and tongues and kindreds."2

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General Conclusions

1. Lynching in American began about 1780.

2. It began in the **South.**

3. There are three distinct periods in the development of lynching (1780-1830, 1830-1860, 1866 to the present) each of which began in the South.

4. At **no** time was the **origin** of **lynching** ever due to "the occurrence of rape by Negro men upon white women."

5. In the first period of its development (1780-1830), lynching was due to the attempt by the pioneers in the frontier district to curb the activities of anti-social elements. In the second period of its development (1830-1860), lynching was due to the attempt by the slaveowners to smash the Abolitionist movement. In the third period of its development (1866 to the present), lynching was due to the effort of the Bourbons organized and directed Ku Klux Klan to destroy the Reconstruction government based on Negro suffrage—the right of Negroes to vote in the southern states.

6. **Vigilantism,** which is practiced against the migratory agricultural workers particularly in the West and Southwest and against the trade unionists in the industrial regions of the North, South, East and West, **is lynching.**

7. The first person in America to organize and direct the fight against lynching was a woman—a Negro—Miss Ida B. Wells.

8. There have been more than 450,000 lynchings from 1866 to the present.

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9. Due to Miss Ida B. Wells national and international fight against lynching, several southern states were the first states to pass anti-lynching law. Georgia and North Carolina passed Anti-Lynching Laws in 1893.

With such facts before us, let this lynching resulting in death our slogans in the present grave as murder! Death to the lynchers! world crisis be: The lynchers are Pass a Federal anti-lynching bill dishonoring our country and as now! saulting national unity by attacking one of the "four freedoms," that is, "freedom from fear"—for our lives! They are endangering America's security! They are guilty of treason! They must be made to pay for their crimes! The Georgia

LYNCHING!

A Fifth Column Attack On National Unity

Chicago Defender

By JOSEPH JOHNSON

OCT 17 1942

Chicago, Ill.

Article III

FOR MANY YEARS, the lynchers, their defenders, and apologists have shouted from one end of America to another, as a means of continuing their Hitlerite practices, that lynching in the Southern States began because of "... the occurrence of the crime of rape by negro men upon white women." (Encyclopedia Britannica, XIV, 526, 14th ed.) That is a loathsome charge which has been used to stigmatize the Negro people. In answer to that accusation, the most intrepid fighter against lynching the Negro people have produced, Miss Ida B. Wells, said, "... it is slander as foul as it is false, to accuse Negro men of the monopoly of a crime of which Southern white men have been so notoriously guilty."

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It is not only necessary for us to denounce the lynchers, it is more important to prove that they are lying and then to reveal the real reason why they resort to lynching. Fortunately for us the means of exposing the lynchers exist. In the libraries there are to be found records that tell of the actions taken by the American people at different periods and the reason why they took such actions. It is from such records that we will give a clear picture of lynching in order to silence once and for all the lying of lynchers.

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Lynching began in America about 1780. It was first practiced in the interior regions of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. Later it spread to Pennsylvania and then into the Middle West. The social practice that is now known as lynching was not even called **lynching** at first. It was known as "REGULATING" and "VIGILANTISM." The name "LYNCHING" did not come into existence until about 37 years later. The persons who engaged in the "Regulating" and "Vigilantism" were known as "REGULATORS" and "VIGILANTES." They did not try to hide their identity. They did not say that the action had been committed at the hands of "persons unknown."

We shall find out now why the "Regulators" and the "Vigilantes" came into existence. After the American Revolution there was social unrest as a result of economic collapse which caused the pioneers to migrate to new regions. As the pioneers moved into the interior regions of the states mentioned and as they also moved across the Alleghany mountains from the settled communities of the East into the vast plains of the West stretching in all directions before them, each supplied himself with his necessary needs. The territory was sparsely inhabited. Pioneers lived from two to four miles apart. Means of communications were poor. Roads were dirt trails which became quagmires during heavy rains and snows. The result of such conditions was the reliance of each settler mainly upon himself for protection.

That situation gave dissolute characters an opportunity not only to annoy the pioneers by numerous petty actions but more particularly to abuse and maltreat, rob and murder them. So intolerable did the situation become in those frontier communities that the settlers began to form various public bodies to deal with the depredations of such persons. From Revolutionary times, that is about 1780, to about 1819 those public bodies had various names and the punishment meted out by them was given the name of the particular body.

In North Carolina and in South Carolina there sprang up such groups known as "Regulators." Their function was to keep public order in the frontier districts. Their actions which consisted more often of whipping, also included tarring and feathering; riding out of town on a rail: and duckling in a pond were known as "Regulating." (See James Elbert Cutler, **Lynch Law** (New York: Longmans, Green and company, 1905, Chapter 3). The practice of "Regulating" was carried by the pioneers into the new settlements of the Middle West. A foreign observer who traveled in the United States during 1822, in speaking about the activities of the "Regulators" in the Middle West said:

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"After leaving Carlyle, I took the Shawnee town road, that branches off to the S. E., and passed the Walnut Hill, and Moore's Prairie. These two places had a year or two before been infested by a notorious gang of robbers and forgers, who had fixed themselves in these wild parts in order to avoid justice. As the country became more settled, these desperadoes became more and more troublesome. The inhabitants therefore took that method of getting rid of them, that had been adopted not many years ago into Hopkinson and Henderson counties Kentucky, and which is absolutely necessary in new and and thinly settled districts, where it is almost impossible to punish a criminal according to legal forms.

"On such occasions therefore, all the quiet and industrious men of a district form themselves into companies, under the names of 'Regulators.' They appoint officers, put themselves under their orders and bind themselves to assist and stand by each other. The first step they then take, is to send notice to any notorious vagabons desiring them to quit the State in a certain number of days, under the penalty of receiving a domicillary visit. Should the person who receives the notice refuse to comply, they suddenly assemble, and when unexpected, go, in the night time, to the rogue's house, take him out, tie him to a tree, and give him a severe whippin, every one of the party striking him a certain number of times.

"This discipline is generally sufficient to drive off the culprit; but should he continue obstinate, and refuse to avail himself of another warning, the 'Regulators' pay him another visit, inflict a still severer whipping, with the addition probably of cutting off both his ears. No culprit has ever been known to remain after a second visit. For instance, an old man, the father of a family, all of whom he educated as robbers, fixed himself at Moore's Prairie and committed numerous thefts, etc. He was hardy enough to remain after the first visit, when both he and his sons received a whipping. At the second visit the 'Regulators' punshed him severely and cut off his ears. This drove him off, together with his whole gang; and travelers can now pass in perfect safety, where it was once dangerous to travel alone.

"This practice of 'Regulating' seems very strange to an European I have talked with some of the chief men of the 'Regulators,' who all lamented the necessity of such a system. They very sensibly remarked, that when the country became thickly settled, there would no longer be any necessity for such proceedings, and that they would be delighted at being able to obtain justice in a more formal manner. ..." (W. N. Blane, **An Excursion Through the United States and Canada During the Years 1822-23** London: Baldwin, Cradock and Joy, 182

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Let us consider now how the term "lynching" came into existence. In Revolutionary times there developed a group known as Lynch's Band. Their practice was known as the application of Lynch's Law. The rise of that group, however, was not due to an attempt to checkmate dissolute frontier elements. It was organized by Colonel Lynch of Virginia who caught Colonial Tories and applied the lash to them until they shouted "Liberty forever." After the American Revolution, the pioneers in that region of Virginia resorted to the same action against dissolute frontier elements and called their action the application of Lynch's Law. By 1819 a change began to take place in describing the practices mentioned. Instead of various frontier localities having various names for dealing with anti-social elements of the frontier districts, the practice began to be known more and more as the application of Lynch's Law. Cutler tells us:

"It thus appears that summary and illegal methods of punishing offenders were known under various names between 1780 and 1830. The term lynch's law was not exclusively applied to such practices. The evidence obtainable at present therefore, indicates that at some time between 1780 and 1817 the term Lynch's law became a localism in Virginia in the region of the James River. By the year 1819 it had spread as far west as Indiana, but had not superseded all other terms for the popular administration of justice."

Concerning the meaning and **origin** of Lynch's law Cutler further remarked:

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"Equally certain it is that Lynch's law originally signified a whipping for reformation purposes with more or less disregard for its legality, and was so used at a time subsequent to the American Revolution and not before that time. Evidently the term originated in Virginia, and as the tide of emigration moved westward it carried along the frontier where conditions were such as to encourage the use of extra-legal methods against public offenders."

On the basis of the **historical** evidence given, it is clear that when it was said there had been applied to a person Lynch's law, between 1780 and 1830, the term had a totally different meaning than that which we understand by the term today. During the 1820's the term changed from Lynch's law to "lynching" and superseded all other terms except one which will be discussed in a later article. Now we shall make a general statement about the **origin** of lynching 1780 and 1830; give a definition of it for that period; and draw some important conclusions.

Lynching came into existence about 1780 because of a contradictory situation in the social environment. The pioneers moved into regions and lived there before it was possible to establish administrative police control. That condition caused an antagonism to develop between the social community on the one hand and anti-social elements in the body social on the other hands, because, in the latter case, the restraining influence of the police power of the state absent thereby producing the social practice known as (Regulation, Vigilantism) lynching 1780 to 1830.

We are prepared now to give a definition of the practice of lynching from 1780 to 1830. WE DEFINE LYNCHING 1780 to 1830 AS ORGANIZED AND DIRECTED EXTRA-LEGAL VIOLENCE (USUALLY WHIPPING, AT TIMES SEVERE, AND BANISHMENT) BY THE SOCIAL COMMUNITY AGAINST ANTI-SOCIAL ELEMENTS IN THE BODY SOCIAL AS PUNISHMENT FOR MISDEMEANORS AND CRIMES THAT VIOLATED THE INTERESTS OF THE SOCIAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

On the basis of what has been learned about lynching 1780 to 1830, we draw the following conclusions:

1. Lynching in America began in the South (Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina) about 1780.

2. Vigilantism is lynching.

3. The origin of lynching in the South 1780 to 1830 did not have anything to do with the "Occurrence of rape by Negro men upon white women."

Since lynching had the aspect that we have learned before 1830, what was its aspect after 1830? For the answer, be sure to read the next article in this series entitled: The Rise of Lynching After 1830.

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NORTHERN

6873

WE EXPECT ACTION

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The colored people of this country expect the Federal Government to take prompt action against the lynchers of those two 14-year-old colored children in Mississippi.

Lynching is certainly an interference with the war effort and endangers national unity, and the Department of Justice has ample power to deal with it on that ground.

If the Government has the power to arrest, try and convict saboteurs and those who seek to tamper with the armed forces or hamper the war effort in any other way, then it has the power to arrest and try the men who committed this dastardly crime.

We are sick and tired of seeing powerful Government officials cringe before the spectre of State's Rights and wail their helplessness when some Negro is beaten or murdered by a mob, and then turn right around and ignore State's Rights under the pressure of fighting a war.

Winning the war is vital, of course, but safeguarding the lives of citizens and improving the morale of thirteen million people is also vital.

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Colored soldiers, sailors and merchant seamen serving at the ends of the earth will not be gratified to hear that two colored children were murdered for an "attempted" crime and that their Government hid inactively behind the myth of State's Rights.

We are sure the Government would not tolerate any nest of spies and traitors in Meridian, Mississippi, so we cannot see why it should tolerate lynchers.

If it legally cannot bring these fiends to trial, it can at least establish their identity and challenge the local courts to act.

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

Fury Spurs Foes Of Lynchings

OCT 24 1942

By ROY WILKINS

IT WAS a small group of typical middle class Harlemites, sitting around in a living room talking the evening away. Some had soft drinks in their highball glasses and some had a jigger or two of a stronger stuff. One woman was strong for the AWVS. She gave a lot of time each week, after her regular work hours, to meetings and bond selling. Another believed in the Red Cross in spite of the blood plasma Jim Crow. A young doctor was getting his affairs in order in the expectation of going into the service. The youngest man in the group had just received his induction notice.

Ordinarily these people are not mad at anyone. They resent the way their race is treated and they do all the extremely proper things to show their resentment. But tonight they were mad. Mississippi had just sent out the news of the lynching of two 14-year-old boys at Quitman, near the lynch-famous town of Shubuta. Two boys, barely out of their teens, were accused of attempting to rape a white girl. They had been arrested and placed in jail. The law was moving swiftly to "try" them and punish them. But the mob could not wait. A blanket, so the story goes, was tossed over the head of the jailer and the boys spirited away to a bridge near Shubuta and hanged.

The draftee was speaking: "It makes you wonder why the hell you should fight for a country that does that."

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All Began Talking

The others nodded and then all started talking at once. What they said was being said by Negroes all over the United States—Negroes in overalls, in white coats, in cotton dresses, in evening gowns. By doctors of philosophy and by illiterate field hands.

Why, indeed, fight? For the Four Freedoms? For China? For Greece? For the Norwegians? O. K., but, hell, how about us?

A pretty brownskin woman speaking: "When I think of my husband breaking up his career, leaving me and our little girl, going off to fight in some jungle to save this country so those so-and-sos in Mississippi can lynch children, I just HATE white people!"

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A lot more was said. A lot of it would not look well in print. A lot of it was not patriotic, as patriotism is estimated these days. People are not careful and logical when they are burning with helpless rage. They cannot get at the mob. They cannot influence the State of Mississippi. Worst of all, to their dismay, they know that their government in Washington so far has not been willing to act against lynchers. So they talk, cry and curse.

Didn't Wish to Listen

The one man present who was in what might be called the race relation business was having a hard time. No one wanted to listen to his formula. No one wanted to be told again that this was a good country in spite of lynchers. No one wanted to hear that all the white people are not like those in Mississippi.

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They all know that. They know we have got to fight in this war. They know our side has got to win. They know that every bit of freedom saved for others means that much more for us. They know that every time the forces of hatred and bigotry are defeated that is a victory for us. They know this is our country and that we have no other. They'll go along. They'll buy bonds. They'll give the Axis plenty hell when they get into action. Even though they have to fight to get jobs in war plants, they'll do that, too, and then produce the stuff for victory as well as the next man.

But two kids, swinging from a bridge! Terror in the night. Dragged from jail. Two kids against a mob of grown men. Two nooses at midnight on a lonely country road near a stream. Dawn and the dangling bodies of two youngsters of fourteen swaying in the morning light.

Yes, the colored people will fight across the seas. And also this hateful thing here at home. Nobody should forget that or underestimate it.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

LaGuardia Fails to Halt Prayer Against Lynching

NOV 14 1942

By WITTIE ANNA BIGGIN

The attempt of Mayor La Guardia to incite officials of the March On Washington Movement (MWM) Committee to call off the public prayer meeting scheduled for City Hall Park on Minday at noon under false pretense that Harlem's Councilman Adam Clayton Powell jr had interpreted the meeting to the City Council as a protest against the Mayor's regime, availed him nothing other than satisfaction of smaller attendance. The prayer meeting went on, and prayers echoing "lynching as sin," and declaring that "lynching must be removed from our civilization if America is to prevail as a democracy and a Christian nation," arose from the hearts and throats of Negro and white ministers regardless of denomination, nationality, or color.

In spite of the wide publicity given the meeting by the committee, the attendance of Negroes was swamped by that of whites as little more than 50 Negroes assembled for the meeting. Whether or not the protest of the Mayor was responsible in general for this situation, it had its effects upon members of the City Council since only four dared put in their appearance aside from Harlem's own Councilman Adam Clayton Powell jr: Louis Goldberg (ALP), Meyer Goldberg (Rep), Genevieve Earl (Rep.), and Anthony di Giovanni.

Other than that, the powers-that-be were responsible for shortening the time of the prayer service from one hour to 40 minutes to make way for a parade of lily-white nurses, WAACS, WAVES, and other women's auxiliaries and soldiers—the only brown mixture being a few Negro wardens bringing up the rear. The flag raising was in honor of hospital service. Several thousand white citizens, parade participants, police, ambulances, automobiles, photographers, and what have you in parade equipment was already occupying the space designated for the prayer meeting fully 15 minutes before one pm—the time the public prayer service was scheduled to close.

NOV 14 1942

CHURCH HEADS FAIL

The ineptness of church members who failed to attend or encourage the public prayer service because they believed it the responsibility of the church rather than the March On Washington Committee, was revealed in personal interviews following the service. But both Mayor LaGuardia and these short-sighted Christians will have numerous opportunities to change their tactics or build a stronger bulwark, because last week the committee served notice that prayers of all the people are essential to a democratic government. Thus, these meetings are being launched throughout the nation "in order to arouse the Christian elements of this great democracy to a full realization of the horror of lynching and the injustice of racial discrimination," and cooperation of all churches has been solicited.

With Rev. S. T. Eldridge, president of the Baptist Minister's Conference as divine guide for the March On Washington Committee, the Monday afternoon meeting brought to those in attendance liberal leaders, irrespective of denomination, all of whom boldly prayed that the evils of lynching might be removed from our land.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

IS CHICAGO LAGGING?

NOV 14 1942

New York has created a War-the-War Committee that Chicago and other cities can very well duplicate. It is called the "National Emergency Committee to Stop Lynching." The committee grew out of the recent Mississippi lynchings against which no effective action has yet been taken.

Congressman Vito Marcantonio who was elected chairman of the committee said, "We shall carry this fight to wipe out lynching to the White House and refuse to accept announcements and recommendations in place of direct action by the Federal Government, because we are at war and cannot win this war until the American Negro is recognized as the equal of all other Americans."

NOV 14 1942

Chicago has had its protests against the Mississippi lynchings but they have neither been of the size or character that is necessary. What has been lacking is unity of the anti-fascists in promoting such meetings. Let us try again.

We believe that a meeting of mammoth proportions is in order chaired by such a person as Bishop Bernard J. Sheil of the Catholic church whose recent Kansas City speech against jim-crow and segregation inspired so many people. Let all organizations get together to promote it. No one wants to keep alive the issue of lynching. But only effective anti-lynching action will kill the issue.

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Such a meeting as we advocate could arouse the community to the continuing job discrimination against Negroes. This is a war issue. It could raise other manpower questions which are so decisive to victory in which Negroes have a special interest. Such a meeting would definitely thereby make of Chicago still more of a fighting center in the mid-west such as would mobilize and influence to action St. Louis, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, and those other industrial points as have not yet realized the importance of the fight against jim-crowism and segregation as a win-the-war step.

The struggle in Chicago is lagging because action is lagging. The struggle throughout the country is weaker because Chicago is lagging.

NOV 14 1942

Chicago needs some anti-lynching meetings that are honest-to-goodness win-the-war meetings. Time does not wait.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

GA. PAPER DEFENDS LYNCHERS

Nov. 28, 1942

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26—(ANP)—When Mississippi isn't busy defending Georgia, Georgia is busy defending Mississippi, so it occasioned no surprise in the House Tuesday when Rep. Malcolm C. Tarver of Georgia introduced into the record an editorial from the News-Tribune of Rome, Ga. Rome itself came in for some unfavorable publicity recently in the case of Roland Hayes, the great American tenor.

The editorial had to do with the two boys lynched for an alleged attack on a white girl in Rankin's State.

CRITICS SHARE GUILT

Calling the lynching "deeply unfortunate . . . Mississippi will receive much severe denunciation for the outbreak of lawlessness . . . much of the denunciatory material will come from persons who share in the guilt of the youths who committed the brutal attack," the editorial continues:

"For months now a group of hair-brained fanatics have been at work upon a systematic campaign to bring about racial equality in the South and they have been enabled to enlist the most powerful support."

Here national magazines with liberal ideas are blamed for showing "photographs of persons of great prominence in Washington as they mingled with colored persons. Colored women have been shown modeling fashionable garments for women, and there has been continuing stress upon the claim that racial distinctions in the South are hurtful to the war effort because of the influence on Indians, Africans and other far peoples. The sum of the whole campaign has been to prove that there should be no lines of division among the races, that one is as good as the other."

A DANGEROUS MOVEMENT

Describing this as "poisonous propaganda which has put false and dangerous notions in the minds of many thoughtless colored persons, as well as the more reckless type of men, and to such influences may be traced the crimes of the Mississippi youths who paid for their lives for a hideous attack upon a young white girl."

The editorial further cites the "misguided colored youths in the Army at Flagstaff, Ariz., and refers also to the "wise Southern leaders of the South" who are not in accord with "the politically-minded Northerners who care nothing about the fate of the Southern Negroes.

"They are determined to put over racial equality, no matter how many lives of Southern Negroes may be sacrificed in the process, and it is going to require much more sound sense in the North than has yet been displayed to bring the dangerous movement to a close."

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Lauds Stand On Lynching

Open Letter Is Sent to Mississippi Governor

JACKSON, Miss. (ANP)—Negro and white community leaders from 22 Mississippi cities commended Gov. Paul B. Johnson and appealed to him for assurances of prosecution of the guilty persons who lynched two 14-year-old boys and a 45-year-old man five weeks ago. The commendation and appeal were contained in an open letter that appeared in the Jackson Clarion-Ledger Wednesday as an advertisement.

The letter thanked the governor for "sustaining the best of our southern traditions" by "placing the label of murder" on the lynchings and "ordering the law enforcement machinery of Mississippi to apprehend and punish the guilty."

Governor Johnson was told that his stand "assures us that Mississippi and the south will not become a bridgehead of fascism in America."

Among signers of the letter were Dr. Jacob L. Reddix, president of Jackson College; Ben A. Green, mayor of Mound Bayou; Mrs. R. O. Hubert, president of the Mississippi Federation of Colored Women's Clubs; Rabbi Meyer Levitt; Judge J. Morgan Stevens; Miss Susie Powell, president of the State Women's Christian Temperance Union; and Dr. Alfred Hume, chancellor of the University of Mississippi.

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Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

NORTHERN

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Texarkana Mayor Writes In Defense Of Lynching

AUG 29 1942

AUSTIN, Texas—(ANP)—Texas courts were urged Tuesday by Rep. Hatton W. Summers of this state to prosecute the men who recently lynched Willie Vinson at Texarkana, Texas, for allegedly attempting to assault a white woman, to help forestall enactment of a federal anti-lynching law.

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Summers, in a letter to Gov. Coke Stevenson, said that Dixie members of Congress would be seriously hampered in their fight against anti-lynching legislation if the states themselves failed to act against mobs.

"Such a law would definitely move the states farther toward the relationship of vassalage to the federal government," said Summers' letter.

Evidently emboldened by the subversive statements of such southern leaders as Gov. Eugene Talmadge of Georgia and Gov. Frank Dixon of Alabama, William V. Brown, mayor of Texarkana, Texas, this week made a startling statement on the recent lynching of Willie Vinson.

Vinson who was accused of having attempted to assault a white woman was lynched by a Texarkana mob and a protest sent Mayor Brown August 6 was answered this week by Mayor Brown with a defense of the lynching.

The protest was made by the congregation of Truth Seekers Temple Liberal church in Chicago of which Rev. Ross D. Brown is pastor.

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Mayor Brown's reply follows:

"While you deplore and condemn lynching, you do not in your resolution condemn or deplore the cause of the same. Had you ever thought of it in this way?

"If the criminal, Willie Vinson, had not violated the law in the first place (the cause), there would not have been (the effect) the lynching.

"You do not deplore the fact that a criminal of your race, Willie Vinson, committed a vile crime and was attempting to commit another, and that he by his premeditated design provoked the whole affair.

"If I know that a buzz saw is running, and I premeditately and designedly put my hand into it and cut my hand off, I should not complain nor would I receive sympathy from anyone.

"This criminal, Willie Vinson, knew that the buzz saw was there and designedly and premeditately and voluntarily placed his hand there.

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"In other words, Willie Vinson knew that there were two laws in Texas by which he might be punished, the law of the land, which prescribed death in the electric chair, as its penalty for such a crime as he was attempting, and also the law of the mob, which prescribes the same penalty in a more or less unorthodox manner, according to the notions of those composing the mob.

"This penalty is sometimes inflicted by hanging, as was the case of Willie Vinson, sometimes shooting, sometimes burning and at times a combination of all three.

"The criminal Vinson knew this, yet with his heart set on hellish mischief, planned his crime and proceeded to attempt to put it into execution, wagering his life and liberty on beating both the law and the mob. He lost, as we all know, 'crime does not pay,'—except in sorrow and death.

"While deploring the mob violence, you and your church did not 'resolute' on or against crime and rape, nor did you 'resolute' any sympathy for the innocent victim of this would-be rapist lust, nor did you 'resolute' on nor express any sympathy for the innocent 19-month-old child having its mother torn away from it, nor did you 'resolute' or express any sympathy for the husband of this innocent woman, who must have been shocked and hurt by this criminal act of the criminal Vinson.

"No, your whole letter and resolution is taken up trying to make a martyr out of a criminal, which is damn hard to do.

"I deplore mob violence, but I deplore its cause more. When the cause in these cases is removed the effect will follow. You complain of the pain, and not the cause of the pain.

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"When rapes stop, then lynching will stop. If you don't play with fire you will not be burned.

"This was the third attack by a Negro man on white women within a space of about 10 days; one of these other men was caught, indicted, tried and sentenced to death and is awaiting execution. The other has been arrested, indicted and awaiting trial.

"These assaults came thick and fast, and some of our citizens got tired of it and the law's delay.

"The citizens of Texas do not tolerate this crime, and like in Vinson's case, they sometimes have a necktie party or worse, when these criminal epidemics break out.

"Yes, I hate lynchings, but it is like removing a cancer; it is painful to have the cancer (rape) and it is painful to cut it out (lynching)."

GUEST EDITORIAL

Changing Character of Lynching

OCT 10 1942

(From The New York Times)

For twenty years anti-lynching bills, with attendant heated debate, dissertations and filibusters on constitutionality and states' rights, have engaged the attention of Congress. For twenty years and more the press, in both North and South, has editorialized against the flouting of law and the madness of mob violence. For ten years Southern women representing church and social organizations have pursued a program of education and of political action directed against sheriffs and other officers of the law to prevent lynching. Now, according to a report of the Committee on Interracial Co-operation, the time when there may be no need for anti-lynching bills would seem to be in sight.

OCT 10 1942

In the last few years there has been a sustained drop in the number of lynchings—from eight in 1936 and 1937 to six in 1938, three in 1939, five in 1940 and four in 1941. There has also been a change in the character of lynchings. Recent ones involved not large mobs and spectacular man hunts but small groups who killed and fled. Lynchers have tended to drop the claim—thanks, no doubt, to the repudiation of this justification by Southern women themselves—that the crimes were undertaken for the protection of white women. And lynchings have been confined to a few Southern states.

OCT 10 1942

But, though the public reaction against mob violence and exhibitions of sadism have reduced lynching as it is customarily defined in anti-lynching bills—the putting to death by "three or more persons" "without authority of law" of "persons in the custody of peace officers," etc.—there are indications that private crimes of violence against Negroes have not been reduced. Negroes are still found riddled with bullets along a creek bank, and Negroes are still reported missing after an altercation with a white man. (All lynchings in the last three years and a large proportion in earlier years have been for minor offenses against the law or against the white man's social code.) So, though lynching is on the decline, the unsolved murders and unpunished murderers are still to be dealt with. Lynching has been reduced in large part through the efforts of Southerners; is it too much to hope that the stealthier crimes, betokening the continuance of a Nazi-Fascist type of racial hatred pursued without regard to justice, will be dealt with in the same way?

OCT 10 1942

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

THE FIFTH COLUMN wages a relentless fight in many different ways against our war effort. One of its methods is to strike at national unity by fomenting racial conflicts and lynchings. We had lynchings before the war. How does the work of the lynchers become fifth column activity?

The basic organization in America that has been, and still is, the main strength of the lynchers since Civil War days is the Ku Klux Klan. In 1938 the Ku Klux Klan of New Jersey and the German American Bund of New Jersey united.

That action took place at Camp Nordland, against the familiar background of the twin symbols of mass terror, enslavement and murder—the Fiery Cross and the Swastika.

The German American Bund has been recognized as Hitler's Fifth Column in America by the Department of Justice. We hope that there will be the quick realization that the Ku Klux Klan is one of America's most notorious native fifth columns. The Ku Klux Klan and the German American Bund are reactionary political groups.

In the social life of our country there have always been, generally, two political groups—a progressive group and a reactionary group. During each great crisis of our nation's history these groups have come out into the open and fought out the great issues upon which depended the existence of this nation.

During the American Revolution there were the Tories and the Revolutionary Colonists. During the Civil War there were the Copperheads and the Unionists. Now there are the fifth columnists and the United Nations group.

SEP 19 1942

All of the reactionary elements of American social life of necessity aid and abet the native fifth columnists. Some of the most notorious are the Ku Klux Klan, the Silver Shirts (Peeley convicted of sedition), the Christian Fronters, Coughlin and others. The fifth column seeks in every way to undermine and destroy the war effort. Its provocative utterances and acts disrupt national unity and cause discord and strife among the people.

For example, the ominous increase in lynchings (while our country is engaged in its greatest struggle for existence as an independent nation) is the work of the native Fifth Column.

The fifth columnist realize that in the present world conflict they either win all or lose all. The United Nations have yet to understand that we also either win all or lose all.

The struggle of the Negro people for freedom and liberation has for the most part united with the struggle of the other progressive elements of American social life to beat down the reactionary group. It was true in the yesterday of our history; it is truer today as never before.

Our lives and that of generations to come depend upon us showing greater determination and more energetic enterprise in smashing the enemy at home and abroad than he has shown in attempting to smash us.

There have been 10 lynchings since January 1. Our country is at war! In greeting the N.A.A.C.P. in convention in Los Angeles during July, President Roosevelt commented on the N.A.A.C.P.'s slogan, "Victory Is Vital To Minorities," by saying that "today as never before, 'Minorities Are Vital to Victory.'" That was a truly inspirational thought.

SEP 19 1942

He added, "As chief executive of this whole American nation, I assure you that your government will accept its responsibility to you."

Lynching stalks our land. It renders extremely difficult the task of rallying the support of all minorities to an enthusiastic unqualified support of our war effort.

In the global war in which our country is engaged, there are four factors that are necessary if we are to win. They are known as the four military M's—Men, Materials, Money, Morale. The failure to develop those factors to the highest degree is unthinkable. An attack upon any one of them will prove dangerous to our war effort. A perilous blow has been struck at national unity.

The lynchers are making a mockery of and doing grave damage to one of "the four freedoms," that is, "freedom from fear"—for our lives. They are holding our country up to international scorn. They are playing into the hands of the Japanese Military Fascists—the Far Eastern partners of the Axis.

The Japanese are using the lynchings here for propaganda purposes in a attempt to destroy the confidence of more than a billion people in Asia that America is sincere in her effort to build a better world for all people. Stop the lynchers from feeding Japan's "racial" propaganda machine!

SEP 19 1942

There has occurred in our country a situation which, when considered in relation to lynching, has a shattering effect on morale. We refer to the eight Hitler sabouters who were landed in this country from u-boats for the purpose of destroying essential war industries and our lives.

The press showed the materials that they brought here to carry out their work. Caught with the goods, they confessed their guilt. Were they lynched by an enraged mob because they had imperiled the security of our nation?

On the contrary, they were given the strongest protection which our country is capable of providing—the armed forces of the nation. Moreover, they were provided with counsel by the special army military commission that tried them.

What a contrast there was in the treatment of Hitler's agents of destruction and death and the treatment of American citizens whose kinsmen are guarding the security of our nation with guns in their hands against the two-legged Hitlerite monsters. They are lynched. They are denied all protection—civil, military, legal.

The lynchers must be dragged out into the light of day! They are dishonoring our country and assaulting national unity! They are endangering America's security and nation unity.

We have set ourselves the task in this series of articles of exposing the lynchers, their defenders, and their apologists and of pointing out what must be done to smash the lynchers.

In beating down the lynchers, we will build an indestructible bond of national unity which will enable us to speed the completion of our major task—the complete destruction of Hitler and Hitlerism. What do you know about lynching?

How long has lynching been practiced in America? Who were the first persons lynched—whites or Negroes? Why? Did lynching in the South begin because of rape by Negro men of white women and girls as the lynchers, their defenders, and their apologists say? Where did lynching first begin—North, South, East or West?

SEP 19 1942

What is your nearest guess about the number of lynchings? Why have anti-lynching bills been continually defeated? Who was the first person to organize the fight against lynching? What was the reason? What states passed the first anti-lynching laws? Why? Have any Southern states passed anti-lynching laws? What great woman made what famous statement about the charge of Negro men raping white women in the South that caused the Southern press to fly into a rage? What was the occasion? What was Frederick Douglass' answer to the lynchers? What did President Lincoln say about lynching? When will lynching in America end?

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

"TAKE US OVER, YANKEES!"

NOV 7 - 1942

(Editor's Note—This editorial is reprinted from the Jackson (Miss.) Daily News, edited by Major Frederick Sullens, notorious Negrophile who earlier this year condemned Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt for associating with Negroes.)

Like a child playing with fire—not a very bright child, either—Gov. Paul Johnson says he would welcome an investigation by the FBI of recent lynchings in this State.

For startling stupidity our Governor has reached the limit. Such an invitation is equivalent to asking Congress to go ahead and pass that obnoxious anti-lynching law.

It is practically the same as giving a nod of approval to the equally obnoxious bill seeking to abolish poll tax requirements for suffrage in eight Southern States.

NOV 7 - 1942

Gov. Johnson must be incredibly dull if he does not realize these things.

Federal interference with or supervision of enforcement of State laws is repugnant to the people of the South, and always will be.

And yet, because two depraved Negro youths were lynched for attempting to rape a 13-year-old white girl in Clarke county, and a mob speedily disposed of a brutal murderer in Jones county after a chicken-hearted jury had failed to give the criminal a death sentence, Gov. Johnson is seemingly willing to tell the Negro-petting Yankees and racial agitators of the North to come on in and take charge of our government.

NOV 7 1942

The kindliest interpretation of the Governor's mawkish statement is to suggest that he is sadly in need of another trip to Hot Springs or treatment of some sort.

Mississippi is not yet ready to surrender her sovereignty.

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Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

"He Never Dies Alone"



PROTEST MEETING HEARS SIKESTON JUDGE CONDEMNED

Pittsburgh Courier

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 12—History was made at the Pine Street Y Sunday, February 1, when the largest crowd in its history, estimated at being more than 3,500, overflowed the gym, the lobby and out into the streets to attend a monster mass meeting called by the St. Louis Branch of the NAACP in protest of the Sikeston mob-burning of Cleo Wright on Sunday, January 25.

FEB 14 1942

Joining with members of the racial group were many prominent white persons, patriotic American citizens, exponents of true democracy, interested in seeing that not only was the blot wiped off the name of Missouri but that steps were taken to see justice done.

RAPS JUDGE

"Don't let your loyalty to your country be affected by the Sikeston mob violence," Mayor William Dee Becker advised his vast audience as he assured them that such action did not represent the attitude of sound thinking American citizens.

The former judge was severe in his criticism of the circuit judge, J. C. McDowell of Scott county who said that he would be too busy to call a grand jury until March.

FEB 14 1942

"The officers in charge," Mayor Becker continued, "had plenty of time to get Wright away before the lynching. They had riot guns and could have enforced the law. You must make certain that this will not happen again by obtaining the enactment of a federal anti-lynching law."

DYER SPEAKS

Ex-Congressman L. C. Dyer, who sponsored an anti-lynch law in 1922 which passed the House of Representatives, but died in the Senate, expressed the candid opinion that, with conditions as they are, and in a state of war, that he didn't believe that any congressman would have courage enough to vote against an anti-lynching bill at the present time when Negroes are being called upon to give their lives for their country."

There was applause when Judge Frank S. Bledsoe, representing the Civic Cooperative League, put on the speaker's table, a paper sack containing $22 in coins which had been collected at his church, the Southern Mission Baptist Church, the Rev. Herman Gore, pastor, on Sunday morning to help the new NAACP drive on lynching.

PASTOR SAYS COP LED MOB

FEB 14 1942

Opening the meeting was the Rev. J. D. Ross, pastor of the Methodist Church at Sikeston, who asserted that Sergeant Dace was in the car that led the mob that dragged the helpless and critically wounded Cleo Wright through the streets of that city and then burned his body near the school house, his church and the other religious edifice at Sikeston, the First Baptist Church, as religious services were in progress.

FEB 14 1942

Listed among the many speakers were Attorney David M. Grant, Dr. William D. Moran, U. S. Falls, Harold W. Ross, James E. Cook, William Massingale, Harry Ball, Mrs. Anna Lee Hill Scott, Rev. Russell Brown, A. Oliver Thornton, Rabbi Ferdinand Isserman, Attorney Victor Harris, Prof. Elmer Hilpert of Washington university; Rev. Ralph Abele and Attorney Glenn Moller, Principal John H. Purnell, Guy S. Ruffin, George B. Stafford, Mrs. Nannie Mitchell, Dr. Truman Douglass, Rev. Williard Johnson and Mrs. Fannie Cook.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

PASTORS ARE ANGRY OVER MO. LYNCHING

FEB 7 - 1942

Baptist Ministers Write FDR For Anti-Lynch Legislation

Indignation swept the regular meeting of the Baptist Ministers' Conference of Chicago and Vicinity at Liberty Baptist church last Monday when the lynching of Cleo Wright by a mob of 800 whites in Sikeston, Mo., Sunday, Jan. 25, was mentioned. The atrocity, the first lynching of 1942, was vehemently denounced.

The public policy committee, headed by Rev. B. F. Laden, with Rev. W. L. Petty, co-chairman, was given the task of formulating a stringent letter to be sent President Franklin Roosevelt. The text of the letter follows:

"Dear Mr. President:

"The Baptist Ministers' Conference of Chicago and Vicinity, which consists of 200 ministers pastoring 125,000 members, views with great alarm and is shocked over the brutal lynching and burning of Cleo Wright, a Negro, at Sikeston, Mo., on Sabbath, January 25, 1942.

"This comes at a time when the best blood of our race is called upon to lay down its life in the common cause of preserving our democracy which guarantees every citizen of our great country the right of trial by a jury.

"While you are calling upon us to help save the world from the inhuman and merciless hands of cruel and heartless dictators, we, the leaders of a most loyal and faithful group of Americans, appeal to you as President of the United States and commander-in-chief of the army, navy and air forces, and begging that while you are demanding legislation to prosecute the war, which is right, we feel that it is equally important to demand legislation to stop these undemocratic atrocities."

FEB 7 - 1942

The letter was signed by the members of the committee: Revs. J. Moore King, J. L. Horace, J. Gentry Horace, I. A. Thomas, D. Z. Jackson, W. L. Petty, and B. F. Laden. Reverend Hawkins and Rev. H. C. Cunningham, secretary, also signed the letter.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

The Lynchers' Faggot

FEB 15 1942

IN the early twenties the state of Missouri had an unholy execution in the environs of Sikeston, when its white people proceeded to take the law into their own hands and burn, shoot and drag the body of a colored man accused of rape until he was dead. After the lynching by Sikeston "citizens" it was found that the victim was not trying to rape anybody but that a white girl had been friendly with him and she gave an "alarm" when some white people saw her with the colored man.

FEB 15 1942

But the man did not get an opportunity to tell his story. That hideous, diabolical, savage mob deprived him of that right in the best traditions of America.

Now, in the month of January of this year Sikeston, Missouri, again comes into its own when it lynched, burned, shot, killed Cleo Wright allegedly for attempted burglary and rape.

Wright did not have an opportunity to tell whether he was guilty of the crime charged or not. He was not caught on the scene of the crime. No judge or jury was given the fact to determine his guilt or innocence. And even though the man was guilty the sentence would not have been death but rather, a term of years in the penitentiary.

The governor has ordered that somebody should go to jail. Well, to the governor we can say that we've heard that before. We did not hear the governor say that the sheriff ought to be tried as an accessory in that he suffered the mob to take the man without even firing a shot. He did not even suggest that the sheriff be fired. The seriousness of the governor of the state made infamous by two lynchings within that many decades can be attested to best by seeing something in the form of action. Talk is never convincing in cases of lynching.

The police officers of that little prejudiced town knew or should have known that a colored man accused of attempting to rape a white woman and of cutting a police officer as well as the woman, was not safe without ample police protection. The sheriff knew it also. The governor should have known it.

FEB 15 1942

The lynching, it can be said in passing, was the most brutal one in our generation. This is true although we have had some pretty brutal ones as lynchings go. We have had them so brutal until the mobsters have used blowtorches to parch the tongues and flesh of victims.

The 700 members of the mob at Sikeston saturated the victim with gasoline which was already suffering from three bullet wounds inflicted by a policeman, set fire to him, dragged him through the town and deposited his body on the public school yard.

If such tactics doesn't make the American Negro take notice and wonder where does he come in in the so-called fight for democracy, nothing will.

FEB 15 1942

Just as the people of Sikeston ignored the rights—legal and moral—of Cleo Wright so are the people of America ignoring in the main the rights of the American Negro.

We Can't Forget

We can't forget Sikeston, for too many times every day we find ourselves confronted with the undemocratic practices of America. . . . . if it isn't a mob, lynching a black man, it is narrow, ignorant youths kicking Negro girls from a street car, and the street car operator going on his way, claiming he did not see the scuffle on the car. . . . or it is a board of education that still does nothing about providing equal education opportunities for Negro boys and girls, even after their fathers and mothers have marched to the polls to put over higher school taxes.

If it isn't police officers practicing brutality on the heads of Negro people, it is a city that does nothing to provide for the care of the training of the Negro feebleminded, and then yelling about the high and alarming Negro juvenile and adult crime rate.

St. Louis, Mo. FEB 27 1942

It it isn't a mob, actually dragging a Negro down the streets by his heels, it is groups of people talking of mob violence and riot scare, after Negro youths have taken to the road of crime.

It it isn't landlords, who kick sharecroppers from the land, in order to collect all of the Federal Government's payoff for crop curtailment, it is the vicious poll tax that keeps so many Negro and white Americans from enjoying the privilege of voting.

We can't forget Sikeston, because so many Americans won't let us.

America can help us to forget. . . . at least help us to realize that we are Americans, too. . . . . by passing a Federal Anti-Lynching bill that will make states, county and city authorities pay, and pay heavy, for failing to protect all men from lynch mobs. . . . . by opening the door to the Negro worker in the great National Defense industry. . . . . by accepting the Negro in every branch of the Army, Naval and Aviation departments of the nation. . . . . by providing truly equal educational opportunities for all. . . . . by giving more than "lip service" to the cause of Democracy.

FEB 27 1942

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negroes, Whites United at Parley in St. Louis

MAR 13 1942

ACTS ON SIKESTON

MAR 13 1942

(Special to the Daily Worker)

ST. LOUIS, Mo., March 12.—The day a so-called "investigation" was opened in Benton, Mo., to whitewash the brutal Sikeston lynching of a Negro worker, Cleo Wright, a group of organizations representing 100,000 Negroes and whites gathered in this city to spur the national campaign for anti-lynching legislation as a means of strengthening national unity.

MAR 13 1942

The 250 delegates attending the conference here represented St. Louis Negro organizations, CIO and AFL unions, churches, civic, social welfare and other groups.

The urgent need for renewed demands for anti-lynch legislation through Congress was seen in the fact that the Benton, Mo., investigation of the Sikeston lynching, as it opened before a Grand Jury, was prefaced by a remark by Circuit Judge J. C. McDowell that the jury should "not be influenced by demands elsewhere for drastic action."

At the St. Louis anti-lynch conference trade union delegates set the tone by stating that it was the duty of the white people of St. Louis to see that justice was done in the Sikeston lynching, and that the brutal incident should be used to waken the nation's consciousness of the need for national legislation.

UNIONISTS SPEAK OUT

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Several trade union speakers made it clear that the labor movement realized the struggle of the Negroes for full citizenship was also the struggle of the labor movement to establish and protect democratic rights in order to weld the national unity which is needed to win the war.

A resolution calling for establishment of a continuation committee of 12 which would be broadly representative of both Negroes and whites and of labor as well as church and civic organizations to organize a confederation was passed unanimously.

Sidney R. Redmond, president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People, presided.

A call for action by white people to stamp out lynching and win full democratic rights for the Negroes was made by the Rev. Oscar Johnson, pastor of the Third Baptist Church.

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"There is a time," Rev. Johnson declared, "when patience is a virtue and there are times when impatience is necessary to assert that virtue. This is one of the latter."

"The Negroes have exerted the great patience and loyalty to their country. It is time the white people learned something from them and saw that attacks on Negroes are attacks on democracy."

David Grant, Negro assistant circuit attorney here, said that the Negro leaders were encouraged by the large number of white people present.

"The unity which is expressed nationally," Grant declared, "is increasing itself concretely in the efforts of white and Negro in the effort to protect democratic rights."

Other speakers included the Rev. Sidney Sweet, dean of the Christ Cathedral, Dr. G. Cartwright of the Metropolitan Church Federation, William Sentner, of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, and Arthur Phillips, of the National Maritime Union.

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LYNCHING!!

A Fifth Column Attack On National Unity

OCT 24 1942

By JOSEPH JOHNSON

THE REASON FOR LYNCHING 1830-1860

Article IV

OCT 24 1942

NEARLY ALL OF US have heard about the Abolitionists and the Abolitionist movement. Yet, there are few among us who realize that those persons and that movement had decisive influence on the development of lynching. In this connection the observation of four investigators of lynching are important.

Cutler says: "Soon after 1830 a change took place. The anti-slavery agitation was accompanied by a revival of lynch law, and the practice spread throughout the country. Not only did lynch-law continue to be exercised in the border settlements, but it was revived in well established communities for the purpose of putting down abolitionism."—*1 Collins adds: "In seeking a cause for the great increase of lynching whether in its milder or severer form from about 1830, I think one need not hesitate to give first place to the Anti-Slavery agitation."—*2

Inasmuch as the slaveowners had not overcome their fear and panic as a result of Nat Turner's Rebellion, Reuter remarks that the flood of anti-slavery literature that poured into the South increased their fears of slave insurrections so that "no punishment was too severe for an Abolitionist"—3 Then he added: "They (the slaves—J.J.) were valuable pieces of property; and the death (or liberation by escape or insurrections—J.J.) of an able-bodied slave was a considerable economic loss." Walter Whites says that with the development of the Abolitionist movement the lyncher came forth as the protector of the slaveowners' profits. The slave owners were the lyncher. They turned lyncher not to protect their profits but their property—slaves—as a result of whose unpaid labor their profits were derived.

What was the slaveowners' reaction to the Abolitionist agitation? For our answer let us turn to the journals at the disposal of the slaveowners. Scores of meetings were held in the South denouncing the Abolitionists. As the boats from the North touched southern ports, they discharged a type of cargo that created apprehension, anger, hatred, and rage among the slaveowners. In describing this new cargo, the NORFOLK HERALD said:

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"A bundle of incendiary pamphlets from the abolitionists pandemonium in New York were a few days ago received at the post office in this borough. This new emission of mischief . . . comes forth under the imposing title of 'Human Rights,' and is filled with matter of a tendency to incite sedition among the colored population of the South, and overturn the existing social and political relations of the country, the constant aim and object of the abolitionists, as manifested in this instance by the fact that the whole 20 or 30 copies mailed for this post office, **were directed to free Negroes in the borough** and vicinity—all sent gratis of course."—*4

In attempting to stem the flood of literature at its source, the South made demands upon the North.

"Let the people of the North," said the Richmond Whig, "if they love the union and value perpetuity, know, that had a prophet spoken it, the last sentiment expressed by the STAR could not be more true: 'The abolitionists must be put down or they destroy the Union.' Choose they! It is in their power to suppress by legitimate and constitutional means. Some of their press consider this, menace, threat, hectoring, bravado! They little know the state of southern feeling!"—*5

As a means of dispelling all doubt concerning "the state of southern feeling," one southern paper declared:

"The people of the North **must** (emphasis orig.) go to **hanging** these fanatical wretches **if they would not lose the benefit of southern trade;** and they will do it. They know too well, which side their bread is buttered on to give up this advantage. Depend upon it, the northern people will never sacrifice their present lucrative trade with the South, **so long as the hanging of a few thousand will prevent it!!**

Two examples (which are typical of many others in the possession of the writer) will show that the slaveowners did not hesitate to hang those whom they called "fanatical wretches," because the North refused to carry out their demands.

Judge **Lynch** (says the Aiken, S. C., Telegraph, of the 11th inst.) pinned it into a chap a few days ago, down on the Runs in this district. We have not heard all the particulars. The fellow was found in the cotton field **with the Negroes,** and detected feigned partial insanity. We learn that judge **HANG** (orig.) presided there and passed sentence on him. There were two others of the like stamp detected about the same time in Orangeburg district."—6

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"A Norfolk paper of the 10th has the following intelligence, but the Richmond papers do not mention it.

"'We learn by the arrival of the steamboat Kentucky last evening from Richmond, that Robinson, the Englishman, mentioned in the "Beacon" of Saturday, as being in the vicinity of Lynchburg, was taken about fifteen miles from that town and HANGED ON THE SPOT (orig.)! . . . Let this instance afford a warning to the fanatic i.e., Abolitionist of the prompt punishment which inevitably awaits him south of the Potomac."—*7

The statement of the "Richmond Whig," one of the organs of the slaveowners, in demanding that "the abolitionists must be put down or they destroy the union," foreshadowed the action that the slaveowners took against the Abolitionists immediately and their later attempt to destroy the Union. The slaveowners used violence in putting down the Abolitionists. The violence, at the time short of the attempt at disunion, used by the slaveowners to protect their property was lynching.

Cutler and Collins directly and Reuter only indirectly suppose that the attempt to crush the Abolition movement was a **simple** revival of lynch-law as practiced between 1780 and 1830. This could not be so because there was a quantitative and a qualitative different social basis separating the practice of lynch-law 1780 to 1830 from that of 1830 to 1860. It is true that the **form,** at first, in each instance was the same. But, the important fact to remember is that the **social basis** in each period from the beginning was different. How, then, are we to make clear the difference?

Let us once more isolate the particular contradictory factor in the American social environment that has just been reviewed which produced an antagonism that resulted in the social practice of lynching 1830 to 1860. That contradictory factor was this: The unity of the political structure of our country was the co-existence of two mutually antagonistic and irreconcilable system of social economy—capitalist and slave. As it became more and more impossible to reconcile the fundamental conflict of interests between those two modes of social economy there arose an increasingly hostile clash of ideas. The ideas of Abolitionist were one of the currents of ideas in the North that were hostile to the ideas of the slaveowners. When the Abolitionist attempted to carry into life their idea that all men as such were equal, they were met by the determined resistance of the slaveowners.

OCT 24 1942

To prevent that idea of the Abolitoinists—that was hostile to their property interests—from reaching their property (slaves), the slaveowners resorted to lynching 1830 to 1860. We are ready now to give a definition for the practice of lynching between 1830 and 1860; to make some observations; and to draw an important conclusion.

We now define lynching 1830 to 1860 as the organized and directed extra-legal violence (by whipping at first; later summary execution—hanging and shooting) by the slaveowners to protect their property—slaves.

The quantitative, qualitative difference between the social practice of lynching from 1780 to 1830 and from 1830 to 1860 should be clear to us. In the **first period** the **origin** of **lynching** was **due** to the **attempt** by the **social community** to **protect** the **interest** of the **social community generally;** whereas in the **latter period** the **origin** of **lynching** was **due** to the **attempt** by a **particular social class** to **protect** the **property in human beings** of that **special social class.**

It is a matter of **first** importance to observe that in this instance also the **origin of lynching did not have anything to do with the "occurrence of rape by Negro men upon white women" in the South.** But the lynchers, their defenders, and their apologists may object that they mean **lynching not before** but **after** the Civil War. Are they correct? For the answer, read the next article in this series entitled: The Reason For Lynching From 1866 to the Present Time.

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*1—Cutler, Lynch Law, Longmans, Green & Co., p. 91.
*2—Winfield H. Collins, The Truth About Lynching and the Negro in the South (New York: The Neale Publishing Company, 1918), p. 11.
*3—Edward Byron Reuter, The American Race Problem (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1927), p. 383, p. 393.
*4—Niles' Weekly Register, No. 48, Aug. 8, 1835, p. 402.
*5—Ibid., No. 41, Oct. 29, 1831, p. 162.
*6—Niles' Weekly Register, No. 49, Oct. 3, 1835, p. 65.
*7—Ibid., No. 48, Aug. 8, 1835, p. 410.

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NORTHERN

Elks Chief Goes Incognito To Probe Lynching Of Man At Sikeston, Mo.

FEB 21 1942

ST. LOUIS.—(ANP)—Hobson R. Reynolds, grand director of civil liberties, I.B.P.O.E.W., conducted his own investigation last week into the lynching at Sikeston, last January 25.

Reynolds, whose appearance in no way reflects his racial identity, quietly entered the sleepy little southern town located in Missouri's "boot heel" cotton section, secured quarters and as quietly proceeded to gather evidence and fact from the townspeople.

When asked how long he remained in Sikeston, Reynolds stated, "I was there long enough to discover what I wanted to know—that the real cause behind Cleo Wright's lynch-burning was the determination of a prejudiced minority to intimidate and scare our people so that their efforts at securing their civil liberties and economic freedom guaranteed by the constitution and laws of the land would be discouraged, and in order to forever frighten them out of their natural yearnings to stand forth fearlessly as American citizens."

As to his racial identity being discovered by the whites, Reynolds rejoined, "Nobody asked me what I was, and I certainly didn't go around with any sign on my back. They will find out soon enough though, and most likely to their own embarrassed surprise and consternation."

FEB 21 1942

Reynolds conferred officially with the civil liberties department of Greater St. Louis lodge number 102 whose four co-directors, Attys. David M. Grant, George L. Vaughn, John A. Davis and Sidney R. Redmond, are outstanding members of the Missouri bar.

Attys. Grant, Vaughn and Redmond hold official positions on the staffs of the circuit attorney, attorney general and city counselor, respectively.

At this conference, also attended by A. Oliver Thornton, exalted ruler, and Dr. L. B. Howell, medical director, the question of presenting the facts uncovered at Sikeston to the department of justice at Washington was discussed.

FEB 21 1942

While in St. Louis, Reynolds also joined in conferences with officials of the N.A.A.C.P. and along with Dr. G. B. Key, grand district deputy, pledged the cooperation of Elkdom throughout greater St. Louis in supporting a silent parade to be held in that city February 22 in protest of the Sikeston lynching.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Lynch Protest Meeting Jams B'klyn Church

FEB 21 1942

Dynamic Pastor Sparks Movement to Force President to Act

By TOMMY WATKINS

Over 2,000 packed every nook and corner of the Holy Trinity Baptist Church, DeKalb and Franklin Aves., Brooklyn, on Sunday afternoon to hear the Rev. Thomas S. Harten, boro leader, assail lynching and "jim crow" tactics being practiced throughout the country.

During the course of the session, a resolution was forwarded to President Roosevelt imploring him to "use his high office to make the democracy for which we are fighting for abroad a reality for the 15 million Colored Americans."

FEB 21 1942

The rally was given under the auspices of the Afro-Protective League of which Rev. Harten is president, and attracted leaders from all sections of the State.

Prof. W. A. Adams presented Dr. Harten to the throng and paid high tribute to the latter's sterling leadership. In his opening address, the Rev. Harten magnified the genuine valor and patriotism portrayed by "black men" who fought for America on scores of battlefields. He also stressed the prowess being made by Negro troops in the Philippines.

FEB 21 1942

He also stated that it was high time for a Negro to be elected from Brooklyn's 17th Assembly District. He said that "we must endorse our own man. That will prevent the political leaders from endorsing one of us who would be a Negro handkerchief-head, Uncle Tom, political stool pidgeon."

Strong emphasis and resentment were lodged against the fiendish lynching of Cleo White and the numerous alleged shooting of Negro soldiers in this country. It was pointed out that "the first thing America should do is to stop Hitlerism at home and she would be better prepared to cope with Hitler and his conorts in Europe."

FEB 21 1942

Other speakers at the conference included Mrs. Ann Arnold Hedgeman, Regional Adviser on Inter-Racial Relations, Office of Civilian Defense; Dr. A. Clayton Powell, Jr., city councilman; Lewis Flagg, president, Brooklyn-Long Island Negro Bar Association; Mrs. Bessye Bearden, famed civic leader; Congressman Emanuel Celler, Irving Steingut, 18th A. D. Democratic chairman; Senator Jacob Schwartzwald and Mrs. M. C. Lawton.

Also Assistant Attorney General Chester Thomas, Dr. Gerald Seon, Stanley Hess, Dr. Wittenburg and Rev. Dr. J. C. Brown, pastor of First Baptist Church, Manhasset, Long Island.

Councilman Powell received a tremendous ovation at the termination of his speech.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

THREATEN RACE RIOT IF LYNCH PROBE CONTINUES

FEB 21 1942

Probers Find Town Closed To Outsiders; No Whites Will Discuss Incident

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—White citizens in Sikeston will not testify against each other in any prosecution of guilt in the lynching of Cleo Wright there January 25, and they use the threat of a race riot to prevent further investigation and publicity.

FEB 21 1942

These facts came out in an investigation for and report to the NAACP made last week by Mr. and Mrs. L. Benoist Tompkins of this city who spent 24 hours in Sikeston four days after the lynching, questioning leading whites in the community and leading Negroes in Sunset Addition, the Negro ghetto.

"Mob Was Just Folks"

The make-up of the mob was described as being "just folks . . . not like our last lynching .... done by the upper classes." Southeast Missouri's last lynching was in Mississippi County, December 18, 1924, when a mob stormed the jail and took out a Negro accused of raping a white girl.

Fear of Negroes, the need to "keep the Negro in his place" and the feudal nature of southeast Missouri, where a very few people own all the land and the rest are vassals, are behind the story of the brutal lynching, the Tompkinses reported.

FEB 21 1942

"Along with this feeling runs a genuine fear of the Negro's physical violence. 'Negroes are naturally vicious, they said, 'with less control over their emotions. It follows that 'violence is necessary to keep them subservient.' It also follows that killing a Negro is not a crime like killing a white man, because the Negro is closer to brute than to an independent human individual with human rights. There is a carry-over of feeling in Sikeston today that goes back to the old-time southern idea that "every white man had to have several colored girls, and kill one nigger, before he became a man indeed.'"

The investigation said: "We were given the definite impression that the lynchers would not be ostracized by the community; on the other hand those who might testify against the lynchers would be ostracized. Even the most liberal man to whom we spoke said that, had he witnessed the crime (which he had not) he would 'not be inclined to testify.'"

Negroes themselves are afraid to identify any of the mob even though they saw the entire proceedings and know those responsible.

FEB 21 1942

One man in the Sunset Addition on being questioned by the Tompkinses was terrified and said he would not talk "to white folks." 'We did not ask him to talk," the investigators stated, "because it is clear that he does not have police protection in Sikeston."

FEB 21 1942

Negroes "Too Cocky"

"One person suggested that the tensions between poor white and Negro labor might have some bearing on the lynching. The poor whites object to equality with the Negro even more than the wealthy ones. Racial feelings are more bitter among the poor, because 'if they can't feel superior to the Negro what would they feel superior about?" Many of this class of workers were in the lynching crowd.

The report also revealed that the lynching of Cleo Wright was not an isolated incident, but that tension had been growing over a period of time. Feeling had been growing that Negroes were getting "too cocky."

FEB 21 1942

"There is increasing feeling against labor unions organizing Negroes, the investigators said. "Negro labor is less subservient than white labor at present and

employers do not expect this. With the threat of a labor shortage looming close, employers resent any encouragement to labor to becoe too courageous and demanding. Negroes have been the beasts of burden in southeast Missouri and since it is important to the economic set-up that they remain in this status, they are not encouraged to develop. The white people of southeast Missouri do not like independent Negroes. There was a growing feeling that they should be put back in the place where they belong.

In commenting on their report Mr. and Mrs. Tompkins observed:

"The Sikeston incident points to certain breakdowns in our legal system: Under our present laws, lynching, which is defined as murder, goes unpunished, because the crime is judged in local courts by those who theselves believe in lynching. Young Prosecuting Attorney Blanton will hardly sacrifice both his career and personal friends, by prosecuting those friends who elected him to office. Even the most liberal of the planters said he would 'not be inclined to testify.' A local grand jury cannot be expected to indict, when it may have on it some of those who were in the lynch mob. Not until prosecution and judgment are taken out of the local courts will there be any chance of exact will there be any chance of exacting justice."

FEB 21 1942

MINISTERS AROUSED BY LYNCHING

FEB 14 1942

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 12—(ANP)—In a letter addressed to President Roosevelt last Wednesday, the Baptist Ministers union, headed by the Rev. John A. Davis, secretary, called upon the Chief Executive to "exert the moral courage to insist upon defending our defenseless citizens within our own land." The letter was written in protest of the recent lynching of a Negro in Sikeston, Mo., and declared, "How can we remember Pearl Harbor and forget Sikeston, Mo.?"

FEB 14 1942

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Lynching And The Blanton Clan

FEB 22 1942

IT is of considerable interest to know that the Department of Justice will investigate the lynching of Cleo Wright which occurred in Sikeston, Mo., a fortnight ago.

It is commendable in the first instance for the reason that our government ought to be interested in assuring to every citizen of these United States the rights which citizens in a democracy are entitled to and also because the law-enforcing agencies in Missouri expect to do absolutely nothing about bringing the wrongdoers to trial.

To verify this one only has to read the editorial comment of the Sikeston Standard, a newspaper published by the 78-year-old, Pole Cat Editor C. M. Blanton. Shortly after the lynching he said in an editorial that the lynching was "an unfortunate incident, but deserved. . . . This should be a warning for bad Negroes to stay out of Sikeston, . . . (and) for night prowlers to leave the community or be dealt with in a like manner."

The white-haired, wrinkled editor speaks with some degree of influence. With fifteen close relatives on the public payrolls all of whom hold responsible positions, his words are not just prattle. He has a son-in-law who is an engineer in the Department of Interior; a son who is an engineer for the Missouri Public Service Commission; another son who is the United States District Attorney at St. Louis, and another son—David, 33,—who is the prosecutor of the county in which the lynching occurred.

Now, immediately following the lynching son David began his routine investigation. Although he was present at the time the lynching occurred he said he had no evidence. Fortunately, however, out of the three reels of moving picture films that were taken during the progress of the lynching one was not destroyed and was turned over to the prosecutor.

FEB 22 1942

It is hoped that with the interest shown by the FBI coupled with the film that reveals the persons in the lynching party it may be that the prosecutor will give more than a passing interest to the offense..

It goes without saying that it will take unusual influence to secure anything like a prosecution in the Sikeston case.

Editor Blanton, and Prosecutor Blanton are father and son. There are other Blantons who are influential. How many of these share the views of the editor of the Sikeston Standard is left to conjecture but it is safe to say that none of them care a good deal about prosecuting the mobsters.

Because of this Blanton clan—which is typical of other situations in cities and towns where lynchings occur—it is obvious that the only remedy to discourage lynching is by Federal law.

It seems that our Congress ought to find some logic in pushing an anti-lynching bill now.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

LOOKS FOR LYNCHING TO END IN FEW WEEKS

MAR 1 - 1942

ATLANTA, Feb. 26—(ANP)—In spite of an occasional outbreak of barbarism, as at Sikeston, Mo., a few days ago the lynching habit is being steadily pushed off the map, and there is reason to hope for its practical disappearance in the early future, according to a statement from the headquarters here of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation. The statement points out that the 1941 record of four killings classed as lynchings by Tuskegee institute marks a decrease of 95 per cent from the average of 78 lynchngs a year for the 60 years just ended, and a decrease of 98 per cent from the high record of 231 lynchings in 1892. The average for the last 10 years, the commission says, has been 10 lynchings a year; for the last five years, five per year. The statement continues:

"Highly encouraging also is the fact that in two of last year's reported lynchings, those at Andrews, S. C., and Gastonia, N. C., the perpetrators were promptly arrested convicted and given long prison sentences. It should be noted that Carolinians claim that these cases shou. be classed as homicides due to private brawls, rather than as lynchings.

"Since the tabulation of lynchings was begun in 1882, the records show a total of 4,699 victims, 83 of them women, nearly 1,300 of them white. Three-fourths of the victims were charged with homicides or lesser offenses; less than one-fourth were accused of assaults on women. Investigations have shown that many of those lynched were innocent. Though commonest in the south, lynchings have taken place in all except the six New England states. Several states outside the South have had from 40 to 80 lynchings each.

MAR 1 1942

"The principal agencies campaigning against lynching have been the NAACP, heading up in New York, and the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, a southern organization with headquarters in Atlanta. Affiliated with the latter is the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, which was organized in Atlanta in 1931 and now has a signed membership of 43,000 southern white women."

FLA. YOUTH URGE 'LYNCH' ACTION

MIAMI, Fla., June 5—Members of the Miami Youth Council have petitioned the President of the United States, the Senate, the Governor of Florida and the Mayor of Quincy for a thorough investigation and vigorous prosecution of the guilty parties in the recent lynching of A. C. Williams. The man was re-lynched by a Quincy mob while being transported to a hospital suffering from injuries sustained in a first lynching attempt.

NAACP Demands Lynch Probe

OCT 31 1942

While the nation awaits the action of state authorities to bring to justice the mobs who recently lynched two Mississippi Negro children and one Negro man within the same week, the NAACP has redoubled its efforts to secure passage of the anti-lynching bill iltroduced by Congressman Joseph A. Gavagan before the present session of Congress closes. NAACP this week telegraphed to the White House the following message:

"Three lynchings within five days in Mississippi are as much sabotage of our national war effort as a bomb in an airplane factory or a shipyard. Nothing encouragers and agitators, the 13 million American Negroes like lynching. Nothing delights the Axis powers more. Nothing damages America so much in her dealings with Brazil, China and India. The Mississippi mob gave important aid to Tokio in her task of holding the millions of colored peoples in the Far East. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People calls upon our Federal Government under your leadership to act swiftly against mob violence not only for the protection of elementary rights of Negro citizens but for the safety of the nation itself in this critical hour."

OCT 31 1942

Each.. of the NAACP'S 497 branches throughout the nation has been instituted to have its membership urge by telegram their respective congressmen to immediately affix signatures to the discharge petition on H.R. 971 now lynig on the desk of the speaker of the House of Representatives.

DOING SOMETHING ABOUT LYNCHING

Pittsburg Courier

Not only will "love find a way" but war will find a way, too.

Pittsburgh, Penn. FEB 28 1942

For instance, the U.S. Department of Justice is investigating the lynching of Cleo Wright in Sikeston, Mo., on January 25.

Reminded by the N.A.A.C.P., the Justice Department has suddenly discovered that under the mildewed Federal Civil Rights Law it can investigate lynchings where local police failed to protect the victim.

We commend the Department of Justice on this piece of legal archeology, and only regret that this ancient law was not dug up when the Administration took office in 1933, which would have been a real New Deal for us.

Because of failure to find this law until the nation was attacked by Japan, over 100 Negroes have died at the hands of mobs confident they would never be investigated.

But now that war has forced what peace was unable to bring about, let us hope that Attorney General Biddle will be unrelenting in pursuit of the culprits and negligent police in and around Sikeston, Mo. FEB 28 1942

And since the Department of Justice now has a budget which exceeds what the U.S. Army used to spend annually, we suggest that it send a number of its smart young men to investigate other cases where police failed to provide prisoners with proper protection. FEB 28 1942

Unless there is no application of the statute of limitations on this Federal Civil Rights Law, the long arm of Uncle Sam should be able to reach back and avenge numerous lynch victims.

Tribune.
Philadelphia, Pa.

Americans In Texas Lynch Man Suspected Of Attack On Woman

A MAN who had been shot in the stomach was dragged from a hospital and lynched in Texarkana, Texas, this week.

He was "suspected" of having "attempted" to assault a white woman.

Even the woman was unable to identify the mob's victim. She "tentatively" identified the dead man.

Two other colored men were held in jail as "suspects."

The mob marched into the basement of the hospital where colored patients are kept and grabbed the wounded man. The nurses were unable even to "tentatively" identify the men who made the snatch.

The sheriff has made no arrests and has no clues.

The man may or may not have dragged the woman from her bed in a trailer camp. But he never had a chance. He is dead, the result of damnable racial prejudice.

And nothing will happen to his murderers. These incidents make men question the sincerity of those who control government. The lynching, perhaps, could not have been prevented; but the callous attitude of officials in passing the matter up as a joke is sufficient to make decent people see red.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

TODAY'S TALK

SOUTHERN EDITOR SHOWS PROGRESSIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD TEXAS LYNCHING

BY A. N. FIELDS

IT is not only news, but shows a progressive trend in social conditions when an editor in any Southern State takes the human trend of thought when a Negro is involved, especially a case carrying with it the charges of pretended assault of a white woman. Down in Texarkana, Tex., a few days ago, Willie Vinson, 31-year-old Negro, was accused of attempting to assault the 22-year-old wife of a Bowie county war plant worker. The accusation had not developed to the point of presentation of evidence to the orderly processes of competent judicial authority. It was in the police stage of investigation.



A. N. Fields

ASK GRAND JURY PROBE

Vinson had been shot by the sheriff's men, of course, on the basis of the accusation, and was removed to a hospital for treatment of a wound. It was there that the customary thing happened. A large group of lynchers appeared, removed him, tied him to the back of a car, dragged him through the streets, and then lynched him.

Editor Henry Humphrey (white) of the Texarkana Gazette, having regard for proper judicial procedure, has editorially asked for a grand jury investigation of Willie Vinson's case. He supports his demand with the following statement: "A Negro was suspected of having made an attack upon a white woman, but, it had not been definitely proved that he had committed that offense. Even if he had been known definitely to be the assailant, this Negro was entitled to the protection of the law, and to a fair trial in court." Here is one white editor who refuses to sit idly by and fiddle "while Rome burns."

THE editor criticized Sheriff Watts severely for his failure to provide armed guards over the wounded Negro while in the hospital; meaning, of course, that the dereliction upon the part of the sheriff, of itself, bore close relation with the desire upon that high county authority of being in harmony with the lynchers. This is one time that the Southern press functioned, and the editor is to be commended for putting the safety of society above the safety of politics.

POLITICAL ACCIDENTS

It is one of the strange freaks of the political life of the South, as well as one of the tragedies of our government, that so many men through the accident of politics secure public office, and continue to hold public office to the disadvantage of respectability of their States and their communities. But, the brighter side of the sad and corrupting situation is that now and then a man arises in their midst uncontaminated and uncontrolled by any political coterie of vice and corruption, lifting himself above community prejudices, standing full square for law and order and for the rendering of judicial decisions upon the evidence adduced, regardless of who is involved.

SUCH men maintain the duty and responsibility of unbridled and unhameper editors and publishers throughout the nation. They stand for the exercise of a diligent and intelligent fight for the preservation of the principles of America and Americans. They know that this country cannot continue to feed the forces of the Axis powers with damaging evidence against our so-called democracy. They are fighting a hard battle. They know that the freedom of the press means the freedom of religion, the stability of orderly government and the security of home and family.

UNITY NOW ESSENTIAL

More power to the efforts of Editor Humphrey. We are not unmindful of the fact that his State still lives and exists under the influence of its past. Slavery was not only an evil to the bondsman, but to his master as well. It left its degrading and insidious influence upon both. It is, however, to be hoped that others will arise unhampered by the threat of tyranny in their own community and will give their best both in thought and in example to the breaking down of the traditional influences of both the lynchers and the Ku Klux Klan—both of whom being twin brothers in crime—will give to America that unity and solidarity which is essential now if our nation is to be preserved.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

CHARRED BODIES AND NATIONAL UNITY

OCT 24 1942

The lynching at Quitman, Miss., of two Negro youths is a dastardly attack upon democracy itself. Enlightened citizens who nurture an abiding faith in the principles of justice and equity should have enough moral courage to demand, not in the interest of the Negro people alone, but as well in the name of democracy, that an end be put to this shameful orgy that is making a ghastly mockery of our vaunted institutions.

This Quitman lynching provides the most impressive argument for an immediate passage of an anti-lynching measure. If our Representatives in Congress have any sense of moral righteousness and political responsibility, they will not long delay remedial legislation for curbing the inexcusable barbarities committed against oppressed and defenseless citizens.

One thing is certain that is America cannot move forward toward national unity by stepping upon the charred bodies of her black citizens.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Two Bastard Twins—Saboteurs and Lynchers

THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE between the saboteurs who landed along the Atlantic coast and the Texas crackers who lynched Willie Vinson. The aim of both groups was to sabotage democracy. Whereas one group believed that nazism was a superior philosophy, the Texas heroes advocated crackerocracy—THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE HERE EITHER.

Following closely on the heels of the legal lynching of Odell Waller, this illegal lynching is directly connected. Up until July 1 only one Negro had been lynched in America—Cleo Wright in Sikeston, Mo. But when on July 2 all of the Justices of America from the president of the Supreme Court down turned a deaf ear on the Odell Waller case, the word got around from one end of cracker land to the other—"Boys, it's lynching time!"

Whenever in the course of justice there is a dual standard, one way for white folks and another way for black folks, then the whole meaning of justice is tossed out the window by the rabble. The Texans who lynched Willie Vinson did it because they believed that all the Executive and Judicial branches of the US Government would back them up. In this they were absolutely correct. From the local peace officers in Texarkana to the Senate and the House of Congress, lynching is still not a crime. Lynching is a sport for white folks. All the impeachments of Buck, Willkie, Agar and Company do not matter a damn as long as the tobacco-chewing, corn whiskey-drinking, Bible-pounding morons of the sub-standard cracker land run this government. That's what's happening now. The real minority in America is democracy. The majority philosophy is crackerocracy.

Willie Vinson was suspected of attempted attack. He had not been legally accused. He had not even been actually arrested. He had merely been shot by the sheriff and then held for trial, but there was no trial. In the meantime the farce of crackerocracy justice leans over backward in Washington, D. C.

Here the government is now spending tens of thousands of dollars trying to give a square deal to the nazi saboteurs. This is the old irony of America—a square deal for all white folks, whether they be aliens, refugees, criminals, morons, corrupt public officials or even enemy saboteurs. The only deal that the Negro gets is the joker and it comes from the bottom of the pile.

The saboteurs were out to blow up material America. Texas heroes have blown up spiritual America. One billion three hundred million people of the darker races are laughing up their sleeves at this thing called democracy. A major victory has been scored by the axis, "deep in the heart of Texas."

JUL 25 1942

"We Cannot Be Bought"—EDITORIAL POLICY OF THE PEOPLE'S VOICE—"We Will Not Be Sold."

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

The Texas Lynching

ANOTHER colored person died at the hands of a lynch mob Sunday. The victime was the 25-year-old Willie Vinson of Texarkana, Texas, who had been "tentatively" identified as the person who allegedly attempted to attack a white woman.

The treatment received by Vinson from the bloodthirsty mob is worthy of mention. We are told that he was shot in a cafe where he was found. He was taken to a hospital for treatment. An automobile was used in the same manner that the Sikeston mobsters earlier this year entertained themselves by dragging the body of a Negro behind an automobile before they finished their iniquitous deed by burning.

A cotton gin was the locale of the lynching in the Texas case and the dead body was hanged to the gin winch there to dangle, as a symbol of "white supremacy" that reassures itself and proves its potency and authenticity by the brutal, diabolical, and heinous treatment of Negroes living in the South.

Whether the man was guilty of the crime charged we will never know. There is one thing we know and that is that he will never be able to prove his innocence. He will never be able to submit his case to a jury of his peers and let them hear his story. He will never be able to say that, "I know nothing about the crime." The lynchers' fagot took that privilege away from him. It was taken away from him for one reason and one reason only,—because he was a Negro.

Whether he was guilty or not the lynchers were not concerned. A white woman had said that a colored man attempted to attack her and any man answering that racial description—for the mob, at least, was the proper person.

Even if the man had been guilty of the crime with which he had been accused his sentence would have been no more than a term of years in the penitentiary. But from the reports it is open to considerable doubt that he knew anything about it.

As this is being written there is going on in the nation's capital a trial of eight of the worst enemies that this country has—the eight German saboteurs were caught red handed" preparatory to doing immeasurable damage to our war efforts. Our government supplied them with counsel that they would have a trial. Despite the fact that they were charged with the worst crime that can be committed during this emergency many days will be devoted to giving them a fair and impartial trial.

At this time in our nation's history when the administration is working toward according all citizens equal protection under the laws the Texas lynching is absolutely intolerable. The country as a whole will be remiss in its duty to keeping the faith with its many millions of people of the allied nation who are members of the darker races if some drastic action isn't done to punish the perpetrators of the lynching as well as to put into action some positive remedy to discourage repetition of the murder. If Federal remedial laws were necessary before Pearl Harbor, they are imperative now. They are imperative because we are in a war in which ideas may be substituted for armies. They are imperative because the treatment of American Negroes may be easily construed to represent the treatment that will be accorded other minorities and especially darker people of other nations.

It, therefore, becomes the patriotic duty of all citizens of this country to work for the abolition of lynching. It is no longer a question that should only attract the attention of colored people.

The Federal anti-lynching law should be passed immediately. The Federal government must go on record as being opposed to this mass murder that southerners have meted out to colored people.

JUL 13 1942

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The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

NORTHERN

Prosecution, Not Whitewashing

LYNCHERS will be encouraged, not curtailed, by the findings of the Federal Grand Jury in St. Louis, which has made public its so-called investigation of the lynching of Cleo Wright in Sikeston, Missouri.

Except for a few glittering generalities, the Jury's action has all the earmarks of an unadulterated whitewash. The lynching of Wright was one of the most brutal in the nation's history. His body riddled with bullets, Wright was dragged in a dying condition through the public streets by a fiendish Hitlerite mob, then mangled and burned.

With that outrage not only were the rights of Negro Americans trampled upon, but national unity and the whole war effort suffered a heavy blow.

The Federal Grand Jury, however, found no grounds even for a "Federal offense." It indicted no one. It took refuge behind empty lamentations, when firm action against the lynchers was sorely needed.

The lynching of Willie Vinson, in Texarkana, Texas; the murder of Private Jessie Smith in Flagstaff, Arizona; the disgraceful assault upon the internationally-famous tenor Roland Hayes—all these received encouragement from the failure to relentlessly prosecute those responsible for the murder of Cleo Wright.

What about the sheriff of Sikeston, the other law enforcement officials of Missouri, the mobsters who dragged Wright through the streets? What about the fascist violations of the Constitution, the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments? Are these not a federal offense?

Some time ago Attorney General Biddle's office announced, with considerable fanfare, that it was taking action on the Sikeston lynching. It is high time that prosecution of the Wright, Vinson and Smith lynchers be taken up vigorously and that the Constitutional rights of Negro citizens be unconditionally upheld. Failure of the Department of Justice to do so only plays into the hands of the defeatists and Fifth Columnists, and hampers the anti-jim crow policies laid down by President Roosevelt and the Fair Employment Practice Committee. Labor and other patriotic Americans are doing a major service to national unity and to the war effort by insisting that the Department of Justice apprehend and punish the lynchers and violators of Negro rights.

The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

A. F. of L. and C. I. O. Leaders Urge Prosecution of Lynchers As Wartime Traitors!

Buffalo, N. Y.—Immediate passage of Federal Anti-Lynching and Anti-Poll Tax legislation, as vitally needed War measures, and Federal prosecution of those responsible for the lynching of a 31 year old Negro in Texas last Monday as traitors to the Nation, were called for in statements issued here today by the presidents of the Buffalo A. F. of L. and CIO Councils both of whom addressed the "Conference for the Full Use of Negro Labor Power to Produce for Victory" held here Sunday at 2 p. m. in Kleinhan's Music Hall. Approximately 1000 Negro and white citizens attended the meeting.

Characterizing the lynching of Willie Vinson in Texarkana, Texas, as an example of "Hitler-like" injustice to Negro people that calls for "Prosecution of the mob leaders by the Dept. of Justice as saboteurs of democracy and the Nation's War effort", Thomas Cross, president of the Greater Buffalo Industrial Union Council, declared that "it is necessary now, more than ever, to pass a federal Anti-Lynching law and the Anti-Poll Tax bill in order to wipe out discrimination and mob violence forever".

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Post-Mortem For Lynching

LAST week the Chicago Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People urged the national body at the annual convention to adopt a proposal designed to dramatize the feeling of the colored people after each lynching. The suggestion was that funeral services would be held at every Negro church throughout the nation to mourn the collapse of the democratic process.

A group of ministers and civic leaders met Saturday and discussed the effect and feasibility of such ceremonies. They approved the suggestion and agreed to have the first of such affairs in Chicago before September.

It was the thought of the conferees Saturday that a white mob which drags the dead body of a Negro through the streets does not do so for purpose of killing the victim. He is already dead. It is done for the purpose of dramatization. It is done to tell the world that white supremacy is the order in the South. It is a kind of ceremony by which the South employs for the purpose of keeping the Negro in a subservient position by reason of fear, threats and intimidation. The dramatization by Negroes throughout the nation of their resentment is a proper way of attacking mob brutality, the conferees said.

Mobs seeking to apprehend a colored person because of an alleged crime or for other reasons are not much concerned with whether he be innocent or not. They are primarily concerned with punishing some colored person. They are interested in showing colored people that if one of their members commits a crime someone will have to pay for it. Hitler used this same technique recently when the city of Lidice was sacked and burned.

In view of such callous disregard for the rights of others and for the laws something must be done to discourage the continuation of a practice which is making mockery out of our democracy.

It would appear that if a program such as was adopted by the group Saturday can be put into effect it should go far in making the colored people more articulate about their grievances and should necessarily be a sufficient protest to make it actively imperative that something definite be done to curb lynching and its attending concomitants.

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

AN EDITORIAL—

Democracy in Action

WITH NO THREAT of lynching or other forms of violence, the United States is going about the grim business of conducting the trial of the captured German spies. The results of the hearings before the military commission in Washington may result in the death sentence being imposed on the eight men who came to our shores on a sinister mission. The trial is strictly an Army proceeding. It is being carried out according to the rules of war. The eight men who landed on the Long Island and Florida coast from a U-Boat, were captured by the FBI and then turned over to the Army. In Germany, Italy, Japan and other Axis countries, the prisoners would have been hauled immediately before a military tribunal, given the third degree to force them to give any information valuable to the Axis cause, and then quickly executed. The fate of a captured spy is usually automatic death abroad. Except in extraordinary instances, there would be no long-drawn out procedure as now looms for the prisoners on trial in Washington.

The United States is now putting the lie to the propaganda that democracy will not work. It is putting into operation the machinery of democracy, a fundamental of which is the right of every man to justice in the courts, and a fair and impartial trial before a jury of his peers. It goes further than that, in presuming every man innocent until proven guilty. Our government is proving to the world that threats of mob violence, lynching and other unseemly hysteria can be controlled by instilling the proper respect for law and order in the minds of the people. It is now using the original blueprint for justice to all men that the Founding Fathers wrote into our Constitution.

The United States, through the Army, is trying men whose evil intentions cannot be doubted; men whose guilt, it might be said, is 99% established without further proof than that they landed from enemy craft on our shores. Yet, they are accorded the same right to be heard as is guaranteed to our own citizens. Over in Newark the trial of another alleged enemy agent is taking place in Federal Court. The prisoner has been allowed the privilege of having counsel. In fact, the court has appointed counsel for him. He is being protected in every possible manner, and even if he is sentenced to death, it cannot be said he was not given every chance to prove his innocence under the rules of democracy, whose primary concern is that justice be done.

There have been many instances, however, and not so long ago, where the machinery of democracy has failed to provide prisoners with the protection to which they are entitled. There have been instances where juries have convicted prisoners with the shouts of the mob coming through the windows of the courtrooms. Mobs have stormed jails, burned down courthouses, killed prisoners in open court. They have lynched prisoners and burned them, and little or nothing was or has been done about it. Remember Sikeston, Missouri? This week it was Texarkana, Texas? The prisoners who became victims of mob violence and of the failure of the law to protect them were not German saboteurs. They were not accused of being in the employ of this country's enemies. Instead, they were members of the Negro minority in the United States, and, as such, were not given full protection and the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty. They were not given the protection of the law which is now being given to sworn enemies of our nation and our way of life.

We demand that the Federal Government exercise the same methods in dealing with Negroes, the No. 1 citizens of the United States. We demand that the government take immediate steps to supersede the State authority whenever a State shows itself incapable of guaranteeing to its citizens all the protection the law affords. We demand that it shall be incumbent upon the Federal Government to take over whenever there is a breakdown in the law enforcing power of the States. We demand that the same fair, impartial treatment of these Axis spies, espionage agents and saboteurs be given to all Americans. In that way, and in that way only, will we live down the accusation that our form of government, democracy, is unable to protect those who live under it.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Enemy No. One!

AUG 30 1942

MAYOR William V. Brown of Texarkana, Texas, this week took time out to make a philosophical discourse on the "cracker concept" of the reasons underlying lynchings. The mayor of Texarkana, whom we suppose swore to uphold the constitutions of his state and of the country when he took his oath of office, even went so far as to indicate that lynching is necessary to keep Negroes in their place.

In excusing the lynchers of Willie Vinson of his city the mayor said:

"If I knew that a buzz saw is running, and, premeditatedly and designedly put my hand into it and cut my hand off, I should not complain nor would I receive sympathy from anyone.

"This criminal, Willie Vinson, knew that the buzz saw was there and designedly and premeditatedly and voluntarily placed his hand there.

"In other words, Willie Vinson knew that there were two laws in Texas by which he might be punished, the law of the land, which prescribed death in the electric chair, as its penalty for such a crime as he was attempting, and also the law of the mob, which prescribes the same penalty in a more or less unorthodox manner, according to the notions of those composing the mob."

The mayor even goes so far as to credit the actions of a mob with being a kind of "law."

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He says that "When rapes stop, then lynching will stop." We ask, who did Willie Vinson rape? We ask again, who was Willie Vinson accused of raping. The answer in either instance is "no one." Willie Vinson was lynched by a Texas mob because he resembled someone who was accused of attempting to attack a white woman. Whether Willie Vinson is the man will never be known by the public. All the laws that have been made for the benefit of persons accused of crime since King John signed the Magna Charta in 1215 were denied to Willie Vinson.

The mayor, in his letter, even attempts to wax comical when he spurts out with this: "The citizens of Texas do not tolerate this crime (meaning rape), and like in Vinson's case, they sometimes have a necktie party or worse, when these criminal epidemics break out."

Mayor Brown has no apologies to offer for the actions of the members of the mob lynching Vinson. He is rather proud of it. He can even boast about the effectiveness of the mob.

He said that Willie Vinson was a criminal. The mob had determined that, No court, no jury, no tribunal of any kind gave him half a chance to plead his guilt or innocense.

Mayor Brown is an enemy to society. He represents the cancerous growth that has puntuated the American democracy to the end that it is filled with totalitarian bubbles.

The statement of Mayor Brown does not boost the morale of fifteen million Negroes in this country, many of whom are wondering if the war will have any meaning for them which can be reduced to meaningful words like "equality", "justice" and "freedom Neither does it aid the morale of the four hundred million dark people in India who are wondering about the plight of the darker races in the world that will be carved out of the peace that is to come. Neither does it make the ninety million darker people in the Latin American countries feel a more cordial relationship toward the white man's philosophy of racial superiority.

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Mayor Brown is to be condemned. He is an enemy to society; a saboteur of the war effort; a congenital leech that sucks the lifeblood of a democratic society and makes it more susceptible to the chronic ills induced by a contemptible totalitarian filtration. He is America's enemy number one.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

HITLER IN MISSISSIPPI

So far as any one knows, Adolf Hitler's agents were not active last week in the State of Mississippi, but Hitler's work was being done there. It was being done by mobs which carried out three lynchings within that one week. The courts and police of Mississippi, whose authority was defied, are taking action. We may hope that it will result in arrests and convictions, but previous experience in similar cases does not make the hope a confident expectation. In the eyes of unfriendly foreigners the State of Mississippi, and with it the United States, must stand condemned as not practicing what our statesmen preach. As this news goes round the world—and let us be sure it will do so—our cause will suffer. The Nazi propagandists will not add that the majority of the people of Mississippi detest lynching, nor that these murders outrage the great masses of the American people, though these things are true.

About 10 per cent of our population are Negroes, and just as loyal as the other 90 per cent to our cause in this war. We count on them to work and to fight for that cause. It is of national importance that they be guaranteed the civil rights to which, like other Americans, they are entitled, and the protection of their property and their lives. Any State in the Union, North or South, can insure these rights and this protection if its officials take the situation seriously.

OCT 21 1942

Sentiment In Sikeston Favors Brutal Lynching

Courier - Pittsburgh, Penn.

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FEB 7 - 1942

(Editor's Note: The following editorial is reprinted from the St. Louis Star Times' edition of January 28.)

C. L. Blanton, self-described as the "pole-cat editor" of Sikeston, Mo., is not one of those who feels that his community has been disgraced and shamed by the brutal lynching of a Negro last Sunday. Says Mr. Blanton in his newspaper column:

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"The mobbing of the Negro, Cleo Wright, Sunday forenoon, was an unfortunate incident, but was deserved. Here were two women whose husbands were in the army, and an ex-convict who entered their bedroom and attacked with a knife one of these women, then cut an officer. It was the feeling of those near the City Hall Sunday, where the mob formed, that it was their duty to protect the wives of those soldier boys, and that was the thing that influenced the men. This should be a warning for bad Negroes to stay out of Sikeston. We have a large Negro population who are law-abiding and good citizens and they will be given protection in every way. Over in Sunset Addition some bad Negroes have caused trouble at times in the past, much to the regret of the good element, but this incident should be a solemn warning for the night prowlers to leave the community or be dealt with in a like manner."

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The "pole-cat editor" who expressed these sentiments happens to be the father of Prosecuting Attorney David E. Blanton of Scott County.

Prosecuting Attorney David Blanton cannot be held accountable for the views of "Pole-Cat Editor" C. L. Blanton, and the latter's comments are printed merely to illustrate the attitude of some influential Sikeston citizens against which Prosecuting Attorney Blanton must labor as he conducts the "vigorous investigation" he has pledged to find and punish the mobsters.

FEB 7 - 1942

It is appropriate, however, to ask Prosecuting Attorney Blanton when he will accept Governor Donnell's offer of special assistance from the state attorney general's office. The prosecuting attorney is well aware that he is encountering obstructionism, and that a substantial part of community sentiment opposes punishment of the lynchers. If he did not recognize this fact at first, it must have become clear to him as he read the words of the "pole-cat editor."

The least Prosecuting Attorney Blanton can do to show his own integrity as an official and his determination to restore the dignity of the law in Scott County is to welcome the outside unprejudiced help which the governor has offered.

FEB 7 - 1942

Why doesn't he do it?

PETITION GOVERNOR FOR REMOVAL OF 3 SIKESTON OFFICIALS

Courier-Pittsburgh, Penn.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Feb. 5—One of the most orderly delegations ever to visit a governor at the State Capitol was received with courtesy and consideration Thursday afternoon, Jan. 29, by Gov. Forrest C. Donnell as a petition was presented to him asking for immediate action in the lynching of Cleo Wright at Sikeston, Mo., Sunday, January 25.

The delegation idea, which was crowned with success, was initiated at a meeting sponsored by the St. Louis branch of the NAACP at the Pine Street "Y" Tuesday night, January 27, called by President S. R. Redmond.

Chosen as chairman of the St. Louis delegation was N. A. Sweets, who perfected, via telephone, details for the conference with Governor Donnell, as the meeting progressed and the large number present heard eyewitness stories of Sunday's debacle.

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WANT NEGLIGENT OFFICIALS FIRED

Removal of Melvin Dace, State highway patrolman who led the mob at Sikeston; Prosecuting Attorney Harry Blanton and the sheriff of Sikeston, along with the immediate bringing to trial of members of the mob, identified by eyewitnesses to the gruesome burning-lynching, were contained in the resolutions.

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So well perfected were the plans that when the special car from St. Louis rolled in, ready to greet them were other race leaders from various parts of Missouri.

Among those signing the petitions which praised Governor Donnell for his outspoken denunciation of the mob and the promises he made as soon as he heard of the disgraceful doings were:

Mexico—Alfonso W. Crump, Rev. A. Morris, Benjamin H. Lillard, Rev. C. E. Richards, Rev. J. L. Owens, Charles W. Duncan, Lucile B. Wrightstell, Mrs. S. A. Lenord and Perry Wrightstell.

Hannibal—William Sephus, A. R. Bohan, J. T. Brown.

Sikeston—Lee Johnson.

Charleston—L. B. Boler, Marshall Currin and Dr. W. A. Fingal.

Lebanon—H. H. Williams.

Columbia—Rev. Frank H. Coleman, A. C. Freeman, Rev. Ernest S. Redd, Rev. Fred Stephens.

Kansas City—L. E. Williams, Rev. Richard Dixon, Rev. D. A. Holmes, C. A. Franklin, Elmer Jackson, Lucille Bluford, Elsie M. Mountain, C. A. Williams, Mrs. Rosetta W. Gibson, Leona H. Pouncey, Carl R. Johnson, T. B. Watkins.

St. Joseph—Mrs. H. L. Ramsey, W. A Simms, Rev. C. P. Morrow, Arthur L. Craft, Dasey E. Murphy.

St. Louis—Attorney David M. Grant, George A. Carper, A. J. Bolton, Harold W. Ross, J. E. Mitchell, Zaid D. Lenoir, Vernon Anderson, Eugene Harris, Rev. Russell S. Brown, Bige Wyatt, Alfred J. Ford, Dr. James M. Bracy, Elmer V. Mosee, Steven F. Tolbert, Robert Clinton, Mrs. Gettie M. Goines, Constable Jordan W. Chambers, Judge Frank S. Bledsoe, Attorney S. R. Redmond, N. S. Falls, Attorney R. L. Witherspoon and N. A. Sweets.

Jefferson City—A. A. Kildare, Rev. J. P. Washington, C. B. Johnson, Lorenzo J. Greene, J. Erroll Miller, Eleanor Von Potts, R. Clyde Minor, Rev. W. Camper, Mrs. Elizabeth R. Cobb, R. H. Richardson, J. W. Paston, Lawrence Meyers, Charles E. Robinson, Mrs. M. G. Hardiman, M. G. Hardiman, Mr. and Mrs. Kalibala, T. McGrew, Robert S. Cobb, V. H. Collins, Sherman D. Scruggs, R. W. Stokes, Phyllis W. Honesty, Thelma Berlack Boozer, Marie M. Bather, Christine H. Coleman, Rosemary L. Martin, Thomas D. Pawley, Jr. and Rev. W. H. Jordan.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

SIKESTON, MO., LYNCH TOWN, ANTI-NEGRO

FEB 7 - 1942

By ROBERT S. CRIBB

SIKESTON, Mo., Feb. 5—(ANP)—The year's first recorded lynching, that of Cleo Wright here a week ago Sunday, is the result of anti-Negro feeling extending over a period of years.

During the administration of former Gov. Starks, there developed the sharecroppers' problem which was eventually carried to President Roosevelt. This was the exodus from cotton plantations and the encampment on state highways which was finally broken up by state troopers. Sikeston was the key city in this demonstration.

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The housing situation here has also strained race relations. Many Negroes have better homes than do the poorer whites in this section, largely through obtaining government loans. As a lawyer I have personally examined the records and consulted prisoners who have been sent to state prisons upon the slightest provocation and most of them are beneficiaries of federal loans.

One of these prisoners is a minister of the gospel who made his living barbecuing meat. He was convicted on charges of barbecuing a stolen hog, although he had no idea the hog had been obtained in that manner—if such actually was the case. His sentence was for two years. Five other persons were imprisoned for the same alleged crime and all received terms of from two to five years.

A wife of one of these prisoners told me she has no funds and may lose her property. Her husband, who obtained a government loan for his home, cannot now collect the money due him from federal officials, he says, because of his incarceration. This situation will end in the ejection of the family from the government property. Incidentally, all of the prisoners in this hog case have received federal loans on property.

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The real underlying cause for the lynching was that of jealousy. This may lead to the outbreak of additional violence unless some action is taken by Gov. Donnell or President Roosevelt.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

1942'S FIRST LYNCHING

JAN 31 1942

SOME MORE IDEAS of how to intimidate a minority group were given Adolph Hitler by a mob of 300 in Sikeston, Mo. last Sunday. After capturing a Negro cotton mill worker following the stabbing and critically wounding of Mrs. Dillard Sturgeon, wife of an army sergeant, white residents of the community gathered at the city jail, seized the prisoner, stuffed him into the trunk compartment of a motor car and took him to the Negro district where he was dragged through the streets behind the car. In effecting his capture, the Negro had been shot three times. After the demonstration, the body was covered with gasoline, and while 300 people looked on, he was burned to a crisp. A city truck

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removed the remains after they had lain in the street for several hours.

If such an atrocity happened in France, Norway or Holland, the civilized world would be calling the perpetrators barbarians but since it occurred in America, the cradle of democracy, and the victim was a Negro, the matter will be quietly hushed up. The daily press announced that a grand jury investigation was being held. JAN 31 1942

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Representative introduce such a bill in both Houses immediately, and the liberal and patriotic citizens of this country should relentlessly fight for it until it becomes a Federal law.

The time is most propitious.
There must be no delay.
The Sikeston lynching should be the last in the history of this horrible American crime.

Bystander
Des Moines, Iowa

What About Sikeston, Mr. President?

FEB 7 - 1942 FEB 7 - 1942

Words are wasted. Incalculable harm has been done the morale of thirteen million patriotic Americans by the savage burning at the stake of Cleo Wright in Sikeston, Missouri. Their patience with the failure of Washington to take official cognizance of the mortal wound to their patriotic pride, while their sons and brothers and fathers are dying on foreign battlefields, is fast reaching the breaking point. A mighty propaganda club has been given the Japanese, who seek to persuade colored Americans that the white peoples will never treat the colored peoples fairly.

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The thought rankles in the back of the minds of hundreds of thousands of colored Americans that the masses of white Americans would prefer to see Hitler win than for them to be given and guaranteed equal opportunity and equal rights in this republic. The Missouri barbarism is not a state matter. It is a national issue. It is an international cause on which the democracies of the world must now state their position if they are to win. It is the issue of freedom. WHAT ABOUT SIKESTON, MR. PRESIDENT?

THE SIKESTON LYNCHING

Courier - Pittsburg, Penn.

The brutal burning of Cleo Wright, a Negro worker, by a mob in Sikeston, Mo., rudely awakened the nation to glaring fact that while we fight for freedom and fairplay abroad we must continue our fight for the same ideals at home. FEB 7 - 1942

There has been no more fiendish lynching in years than that attended by 7,000 people in Missouri, and it is unlikely that anything surpassing it has ever been staged by the German Gestapo or the Russian Ogpu.

Lynching mobs and "peace officers" who willingly turn over hapless victims to those mobs must be jailed and executed.

Counties in which such horrors occur must be stiffly fined so that the decent citizens will understand their responsibility and live up to it. FEB 7 - 1942

Now is the time to fight for such a Federal law.

With State lines practically obliterated by Federal war time laws and regulations, there is less validity than ever in the old cry of State's rights as an argument against a Federal anti-lynching law.

If the Department of Justice can jail foreign agents, Fifth Columnists, saboteurs and other public enemies, regardless of State lines, it should be legal to jail lynchers, regardless of State lines. FEB 7 - 1942

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People should have some friendly U.S. Senator and

LYNCHINGS COMPETE WITH AXIS

JAN 29 1942

This country has been so busy talking about war, getting ready for war and lambusting the Axis powers for their inhuman undemocratic treatment of the esubjegated people and minority groups within their own borders that one would think all was well and peaceful in America. But it is not. And the best proof of our inconsistent theories was a lynching in Sikeston, Missouri, Sunday.

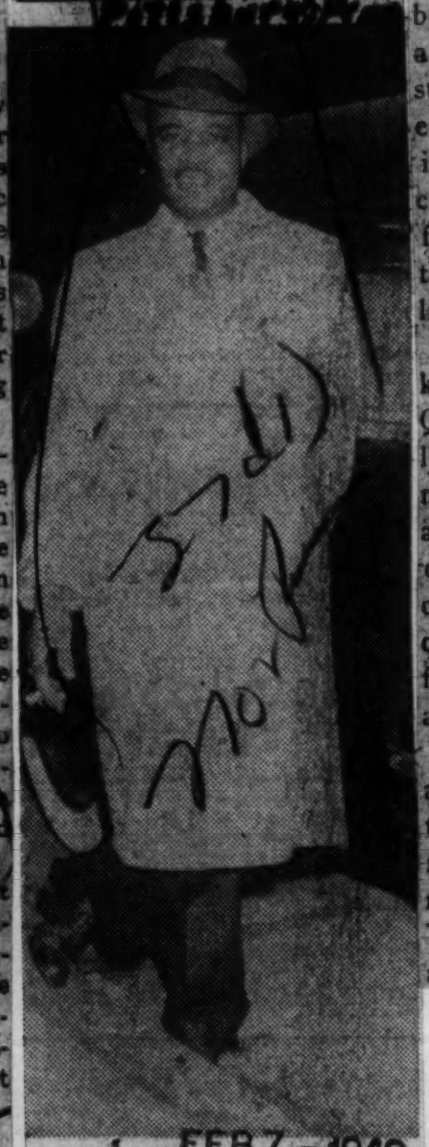
Just what happened before the victim of the mob was captured, no one will ever know. He is dead and in order to justify the cannibal like treatment he was given, stories in keeping with the program will be concocted. Those given out to date just don't sound quite plausible. The Bystander does not defend any criminal conduct of this man, but we do most veheminently condemn the action of any group which denies a prisoner a fair trial, as contemplated by the constitution. JAN 29 1942

Peculiar to say, a certain amount of similarity prevails about all lynchings. Naturally, nobody can identify the participants; a very definite effort is made to make an object lesson to the other Negroes in the community; nobody ever gets hurt but Negroes. These things were no exception in this Missouri case.

Talk about Hitler, Mussolini, and the Japanese war mongers. Terrible. But they are operating on a national scale on the same basis as those uncivilized people in Sikeston.

The governor of Missouri announces that a thorough investigation will be made and the guilty participants brought to justice. We hope so for practices of this sort demonstrate that America is far from practicing what it preaches; that it can, with poor grace, accuse another country of undemocratic treatment of minority groups—like we have chided Germany about its treatment of the Jews—when the same conduct is carried on here. JAN 29 1942

SIKESTON!



FEB 7 - 1942

Sikeston, Mo., the word which today means but one thing to American Negroes, a recent lynching, holds added meaning for Vernon Anderson (shown above), prominent St. Louis businessman. As he was returning from Jefferson City, where he was a member of a delegation protesting the lynching, he picked up a "hitch-hiking" trooper in uniform, and cashed the soldier's check for $65. On inspecting the check, he found he was riding J. D. Sturgeon, husband of the woman whose stabbing precipitated the incident. Sergt. Sturgeon had been stationed in California, and with the aid of the Red Cross had taken a plane for Missouri with the $65 check, but no cash. Nothing was said about the lynching.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

THE FLORIDA LYNCHING

CONCERNING the outrageous lynching of a Negro in Florida on Tuesday, The New York Times, on Thursday, had the following editorial comment:

LYNCHING AND TREASON

MAY 24 1941

Nothing that can happen in this country is better grist for the Nazi propaganda mill than a lynching. Even though the number of such killings has declined in recent years; even though we are, on the whole, a law-abiding nation and, on the whole, give every accused man his day in court—in spite of these facts, every lynching proves that at some time in some community our people are not living up to their pretensions. MAY 24 1941

It is therefore literally true that the unknown men who killed a Negro prisoner near Quincy, Fla., on Tuesday morning were doubly steeped in crime. They murdered a human being who had not been convicted of a crime, though he may have been guilty of one. They also betrayed their country. No can the Sheriff, who did not provide an adequate guard, or the State Attorney, who can find "no clues to identify the slayers," be absolved.

Public opinion, backed by efficient police action, can put a stop to lynchings. Something is rotten in any area in which they repeatedly occur and in which the guilty men go unpunished. North, South, East or West, any truly American community can and will end this scandal. MAY 24 1941

St. Louis Man Gave Lift To Hubby Of Sikeston Mob Woman

Courier Pittsburgh Pa.

Strange Coincidence Following in Wake of Year's First Lynching—Race Man Bestows Favors on Soldier-Husband.

FEB 7 - 1942 FEB 7 - 1942 37d (1)

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 5.—Strange tales are being told every day, but that being told by Vernon L. Anderson, one of the city's most substantial race self-made business men, provides one of the most unusual angles of the Sikeston mob case. FEB 7 - 1942

It was after he had returned from Jefferson City last Thursday, where, with a large number of race men and women, he went to take part in the Statewide joint protest against the mob violence at Sikeston, that Mr. Anderson, an executive of the Associated Business Men's club as well as an active member of the St. Louis chapter of the National Negro Business league, looked in his safe at the Del-Ewe Cafe and Cocktail Lounge and startetd lining up his checks for deposit. FEB 7 - 1942

CASHED RED CROSS CHECK

One check bearing the insignia of the Red Cross organization also bore the name of J. D. Sturgeon, husband of the woman in Sikeston, Mo., whose knifing by Cleo Wright late last Saturday night, precipitated the events that led to his burning at the hands of a mob and stirred a nationwide protest by both whites and Negroes.

"How did you get this check?" the bewildered and surprised reporter asked Saturday as he attempted to make some rapid deductions. FEB 7 - 1942

"I was driving from the airport, about 11 o'clock Tuesday morning, as I recall it," he narrated, "when, several miles from Lambert Field, I saw a man in uniform, plodding down the road ahead of me. He was carrying a pack and his legs were acting wobbly as if he were about to collapse at any moment.

"I stopped my car, when I noticed his sergeant's stripes, and asked him to get in and ride to town. He got in, telling me that he was going to Grand avenue to find some friends so he could get a check cashed, as he had no other money with him on the plane."

After talking with his Army passenger for some time and looking over his Army papers and seeing that they were in good order, Mr. Anderson offered to cash his check for him so that he could continue his journey to the Union station.

FRIENDLY FELLOW

When they reached the Del-Ewe at Delmar and Ewing, true to his word, Mr. Anderson cashed the check for the strange white soldier, who, after enjoying the hospitality of the tavern and having had such a favor conferred upon him, not only thanked Mr. Anderson quite profusely, but offered to compensate him for his trouble.

After assuring his guest in khaki that he was quite welcome, Mr. Anderson, showing him the way to the Union station, assured him, "You being in the uniform of our country is enough compensation for me." FEB 7 - 1942

"He didn't say where he was going," Mr. Anderson replied, "nor did he say anything of the mob. He was such a tired, friendly fellow that I am glad I was able to help him." FEB 7 - 1942

And that is the spirit of Vernon L. Anderson, a truly self-made business man who likes to help others. That he was able to take time off from business to make the trip to Jefferson City to see the governor and ask that justice be meted out to the lynchers was one way of helping. And to know that he was able to assist an anxious husband reach his wife's bedside is, to him, just another way of giving service to those who need it.

Argus
St. Louis, Missou

My Trip to Sikeston

FEB 6 - 1942

By Bea Harmon, Argus Reporter

The rain came down in torrents as if the very heavens were weeping for a lost soul. It was one of those cold rains that seeps through and through one.

It was two days after the brutish lynching of Cleo Wright and Sikeston, though long awake seemed to be in no great hustle and bustle. FEB 6 - 1942

A young man pointed out the Negro section to us, but finally persuaded by us and the chilling rain decided to go along and point out the way.

Not only is colored Sikeston definitely separated from the white section, but there are two railroad tracks formed in Y shape which completely fences in the Negro section. 37d (1)

Whispers breezed through the town announcing our arrival. Mothers peeped cautiously through the curtains while incautious children dared to show their faces, but momentarily.

Dazed With Fear

We decided to find the Rev. Mr. J. B. Ross but learned he had gone to St. Louis the night before.

Horror of memory still glazed the eyes of the colored population as if they had been sleep walking and had not completely awakened. Horrid fear had huddled them together in the three stores and in homes. Many of the persons we sought were not at home, but had fled to the comfort of a neighbor's voice and fireside. FEB 6 - 1942

Most of the houses in Sikeston are the same, having two rooms. Some, however, are only one room shacks, built with a high back and a low front so that there will be no trouble of drainage. Colored Sikeston has not dared to dream of inside toilets.

The main piece of furniture in the homes is a "monkey" stove, a flat top three or four eye stove which squats low on the floor. This stove not only serves to heat the poverty stricken homes but the family's food is cooked thereon.

Beds are to be found in each room and if there are children they oftimes sleep with the parents. FEB 6 - 1942

Follow "Horror" Route

From the homes we followed the route which the "horror parade" had taken on Sunday until we were in full view of the First Baptist church we saw the place where the body had been burned.

Pieces of burnt bloody rags and the cans used to pour gasoline on the body were the first thing which attracted our attention.

The rain still beat down and atop the puddles of water near the scene greasy sooty gasoline formed a skum over the water. The rain had beaten down foot prints of the mob. FEB 6 - 1942

From the scene of the lynching we went downtown to the white section of Sikeston. First we went to see the Chief of Police Walter Kendall but found that he was out. We saw the door of the wash room in which Cleo Wright had been confined. Once outside we took a picture of the City Hall. Later we went to the office of Prosecuting Attorney David L. Blanton, but found that he was in Benton, Missouri. We also stopped at the Sikeston Standard, the "Polecat" editor's paper.

Talk To Dace

On the outskirts of town we stopped and talked to five highway patrolmen one whom was Sergeant Melvin Dace, who is said to have led the "lynch parade".

The white people were afraid, too, but theirs was a fugitive sort of fear the fear of one attempting escape.

I don't remember if I were afraid or not. Sikeston had almost slipped back into its everyday life except for a cold deadly undercurrent which seemed to flow underneath the conversation. There were no policemen or highway patrolmen guarding the entrance to colored Sikeston on Tuesday. According to the Negro population, however, the police had patrolled the Negro area all of fear-the fear of one attempting to take their guns, but failed to do so. FEB 6 - 1942

As we sped homeward, I relaxed completely so completely that I almost admitted to myself that I had been afraid.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

6867

Publisher Warns FDR On Lynching

OCT 24 1942

6867

Shortly after the news was flashed over the wire announcing the lynching of two 14-year-old boys in Quitman, Miss., the Chicago Defender was in constant touch with correspondents and reporters all over the country. Reports from them which were constantly coming in, showed how seriously Negroes viewed this atrocity.

The nature of these reports were so alarming that it was felt that President Roosevelt, himself, should be made aware of the effect of this murderous act on national morale.

It was decided that a message sent from th Chicago Defender to the President reporting the state of Negro opinion would gain credence, since it would be coming from an organization which is an instrument reflecting public opinion rather than a propaganda agency. 37d (1)

Furthermore, it was coming from an organization which is making a genuine effort to cooperate with the administration in its effort to strengthen national unity by improving the morale of the Negro.

Copy of the telegram to the President of the United States from John H. Sengstacke, president of the Robert S. Abbott Publishing company and general manager of the Chicago Defender is as follows:

Publisher Urges Action

"The brutal inhuman lynching of two 14-year-old colored boys is a national calamity comparable to a disastrous rout on the battlefield. Reports are coming in from our correspondents all over the country which show that Negroes are incensed, shocked and grieved that such a revolting act could be committed against children regardless of race by any group of citizens of this country. OCT 24 1942

"The effect of this incident is to destroy the improvement in the morale of Negroes which was just becoming apparent and which is necessary for victory. If these incidents continue racial disorders will develop all over the country.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

'Howling Mob' of 300 Burns Man At Stake

The New York Star-News sent the following telegram to President Roosevelt:

President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
White House, Washington, D. C.

Colored Americans alarmed over the burning at the stake of Cleo Wright in Missouri. Coming as it does with the revival of the Ku Klux Klan, makes it vital that the Government take action at this time. A statement from you will help protect the morale of colored peoples everywhere at this crucial hour. NEW YORK STAR-NEWS.

JAN 31 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A wave of national horror welling up from all sections of the country over the fiendish burning at the stake of Cleo Wright, in Missouri Sunday, has begun beating down upon the White House demanding not only the doom of the Sikeston savages but for action that will serve to suppress lynching throughout the country.

Fearful that the wave of lynchings and riots which terrorized the nation during the first World War might recur at this crucial time, the President is being deluged with telegrams and organized appeals to ease the tension by both word and deed.

JAN 31 1942

Anti-lynching legislation is again emerging to the front for immediate passage. It is evident that official Washington will shortly be forced to take cognizance of the country-wide appeals, despite tomb-like silence here today.

Drink-Crazed Mob Terrorizes People

(Special Correspondence)

SIKESTON, Mo.—A mob of 500 white persons, many of them "crazed" by the moonshine liquor they had been drinking several hours, stormed this town's City Hall early Sunday, took a prisoner accused of assault and lynched him in the presence of both local and State authorities.

The victim was Cleo Wright, 30, who was employed as a laborer in a local cotton mill.

At the time when Wright was taken from City Hall, he was already suffering from the effects of three bullet wounds inflicted by Patrolman Hess Perrigan, who claimed he had to shoot "the n—r because he was hacking at my face with a knife."

After becoming convinced that the mob really intended to take the law into their own hands, Prosecutor David Blanton stood at the City Hall door and spoke nearly half an hour in a futile attempt to discourage the action.

Blanton used all the persuasive powers at his command. He quoted the Bible, he told them it was Sunday (11:30 A. M.) with people on their way to church and begged for the opportunity to "let me see to it personally that law and order takes its course."

At noon, however, members of the mob had their own way. They smashed City Hall's front door and rushed over to the spot where Wright was lying on the floor.

Then they dragged him to the rear of a waiting auto. A trunk was opened and Wright's bullet-riddled body was stuffed into it.

They drove away, towards the section where Sikeston's 4,000 colored residents live. By that time it was a howling mob, cursing and threatening to get "every n—r in town," if anything happened to the mob's planned exhibition of the lynch-victim's body.

In the centre of the "colored section" the car was stopped, the body removed from the trunk and tied to a noose attached to the auto's rear axle.

With huge clubs, knives and guns, about 200 members of the mob terrorized the whole colored area. Women, children and men remained indoors, trembling and praying, in fear of what might happen . . . if a colored person ventured outside.

JAN 31 194

Afterward, colored citizens were told what it was all about. Assistant Chief of Police Harold Wallace said that the millhand was suspected of having broken into the home of Mrs. Dillard Sturgeon, white, and knifed her when she resisted his efforts at criminal assault.

JAN 31 194

Word from Jefferson City said Governor Forrest Donnell has promised a thorough investigation with indictments and prosecution to follow swiftly. This was his answer to protests that flooded his office from every section of the country.

ST. LOUIS PASTORS RAP SIKESTON ACT

Courier
Pittsburg, Pa.
FEB 7 1942

ST, LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 5.—In a resolution which carried a decidedly different punch from others passed, but which was none-the-less effective and uncompromising, the Metropolitan Church Federation of the Greater St. Louis Area, through the interracial commission of which Dr. W. A. Cooper, pastor of Metropolitan A.M.E.Z. church is chairman, decried the Sikeston lynching as follows:

FEB 7 - 1942

"We bow our heads in shame and sorrow that in the face of all our efforts at building a Christian world and a decent democracy there should be so complete a breakdown of government and society as happened at Sikestown, Mo., last Sunday, January 25.

"We are all, regardless of race, class or creed, more than involved in this breakdown. We condemn crime whether committed by an individual criminal or by the mob. The events that transpired revealed to all of us that there is much yet for us to do and that we must put forth greater efforts than in the past. It is ours to see to it that there can be no recurrence of violence or the crime that led to it, as happened at Sikeston last Sunday.

"In fact of all that happened at Sikeston, we call the people of our State and nation to renewed efforts for decency and the strengthening of the democratic processes. The people of our churches of all creeds and races should be moved to greater Christian effort than ever before. We must move together and move together as Christian brethren, if we would build a true democracy whether in war or peace."

FEB 7 - 1942

NAACP Demands Law to Halt Lynchings

Courier
Pittsburg, Pa.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 5—To support its plan for action in the Sikeston, Missouri, lynching, the local branch of the NAACP will hold a state-wide mass meeting of all Missouri branches here, Sunday, February 8, asking for immediate legislation giving authority to the federal government to proceed against lynchers and lynching, the NAACP wired President Roosevelt: "The lynching of Cleo Wright is the most crushing blow to Negroes which could top repeated rebuffs, segregation and discrimination suffered by Negroes in the war efforts."

BAPTISTS APPEAL TO FDR ON SIKESTON LYNCHING

CHICAGO, Feb. 5. (ANP)—In a letter addressed to President Roosevelt, the Baptist Ministers' Conference of Chicago voiced a vigorous protest against the lynching of Cleo Wright at Sikeston, Mo. The protest, signed by Rev. H. B. Hawkins, president of the conference, carried with it the sentiment of 200 pastors and 125,000 church members.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

FEB 7 - 1942

"This comes at a time," said the protest, "when the best blood of our race is called upon to lay down their lives in a common cause of our democracy which guarantees every citizen of our great country the right of a trial by jury.

"While you are calling upon us to help save the world from the inhuman and merciless hands of cruel and heartless dictators, we, the leaders of the most loyal and faithful group of Americans, appeal to you as President of the United States and commander-in-chief of the army, navy and air force, begging that while you are demanding legislation to prosecute the war, which is right, we feel that it is equally important to demand legislation to stop these undemocratic atrocities."

Wholesale Lynching

OCT 2 3 1942

Mississippi had three lynchings last week. Two 14-year-old boys and then a convicted slayer were done to death by mobs. In the case of the boys, they were accused, which in Mississippi is enough proof of guilt for a Negro. The third lynching is notable. Not that it happened, but because it happened to a convicted Negro under sentence of life imprisonment, the penalty fixed by law when a jury does not agree on guilty. We risk the guess that the jurymen who refused to vote for capital punishment regardless of the evidence must have doubted guilt completely to risk the ostracism that is bound to be theirs for refusing to hang an accused Negro.

Lynchings are no news—for Mississippi. But refusal to assess the highest punishment against a Negro is something new. At that we do not expect the arrest of the mob's alleged leaders to result in conviction. The living always have a friend somewhere along the way to speak for them. The dead have only the law, which in Mississippi lost its voice and makes only a feeble gesture

OCT 2 3 1942

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SOUTHERN

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Race Riot Threatened to Halt Probe of Sikeston Lynching

FEB 21 1942

NAACP Investigators Find Unwillingness to Talk Is General. Whites Say Fear of Violence Justifies Killing of Colored. See No Prospects for Prosecution in Local Courts.

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — White citizens in Sikeston will not testify against each other in any prosecution involving the lynching of Cleo Wright there January 25, and they use the threat of a race riot to prevent further investigation and publicity.

FEB 21 1942

These facts came out in an investigation for and report to the NAACP made last week by Mr. and Mrs. L. Benoist Tompkins of this city, who spent twenty-four hours in Sikeston four days after the lynching, questioning leading residents of both races.

Mob Was "Just Folks"

The make-up of the mob was described as being "just folks . . . not like our last lynching . . . . done by the upper classes." Southeast Missouri's last lynching was in Mississippi County, December 18, 1924, when a mob stormed the jail and took out a man accused of raping a white girl.

Fear of colored residents, the need to "keep the colored man in his place" and the feudal nature of southeast Missouri, where a very few people own all the land and the rest are vassals, are behind the story of the brutal lynching, the Tompkinses reported.

Fear Genuine

A genuine fear of physical violence, they found, is based on the theory, widely accepted in Sikeston, that colored men are "naturaly vicious, with less control over their emotions." Whites therefore conclude that violence is necessary to "keep them subservient."

FEB 21 1942

Similarly, they adopted the theory that killing a colored man is not a crime like killing a white man, because the former is closer to the state of a brute than of an independent human being with human rights. The investigators continued:

Keeps Old Dixie Beliefs

"There is a carry-over of feeling in Sikeston today that goes back to the old-time Southern idea that 'every white man had to have several colored girls, and kill one n----, before he became a man indeed.'

FEB 21 1942

"We were given the definite impression that the lynchers would not be ostracized by the community; on the other hand those who might testify against the lynchers would be ostracized.

"Even the most liberal man to whom we spoke said that had he witnessed the crime (which he had not) he would 'not be inclined to testify.'

No Police Protection

"Colored persons themselves are afraid to identify any of the mob, even though they saw the entire proceedings and know those responsible.

"One man in the Sunset Addition (the colored ghetto) on being questioned, was terrified and said he would not talk 'to white folks.' We did not ask him to talk, because it is clear that he does not have police protection in Sikeston.

FEB 21 1942

Resent Equality

"One person suggested that the tensions between poor white and colored labor might have some bearing on the lynching. The poor whites object to equality with colored persons even more than the wealthy ones.

"Racial feelings are more bitter among the poor, because 'if they can't feel superior to the colored people, what would they feel superior about?' Many of this class of workers were in the lynching crowd."

The report also revealed that the lynching of Cleo Wright was not an isolated incident, but that tension had been growing over a period of time. Feeling had been growing that colored residents were getting "too cocky."

Labor Issue Noted

"There is increasing feeling against labor unions' organizing colored workers," the investigators said. "Colored labor is less subservient than white labor at present and employers do not expect this.

"With the threat of a labor shortage looming close, employers resent any encouragement to labor to become too courageous and demanding.

"Colored workers have been the beasts of burden in southeast Missouri, and since it is important to the economic set-up that they remain in this status, they are not encouraged to develop."

FEB 21 1942

Local Prosecution Hopeless

In commenting on their report, Mr. and Mrs. Tompkins observed:

"The Sikeston incident points to certain breakdowns in our legal system. Under our present laws, lynching which is defined as murder, goes unpunished, because the crime is judged in local courts by those who themselves believe in lynching.

"Young Prosecuting Attorney Blanton will hardly sacrifice both his career and personal friends by prosecuting those friends who elected him to office.

"A local grand jjury cannot be expected to indict, when it may have on it some of those who were in the lynch mob. Not until prosecution and judgment are taken out of the local courts will there be any chance of exacting justice."

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okl.

Democracy On Trial

FEB 7 -1942

America makes a fetish of local self-government, but many times we wonder whether or not self-determination is ideal. If one were to test the strength of a chain, that evaluation would be based upon its weakest link. The same measuring rod can aptly be used in determining the value and worth of democracy. The aptitude of Democracy towards its weakest link presents the best test.

FEB 7 -1942

Let us take, for example, the recent lynching at Sikeston, Missouri. Here we have an opportunity to observe democracy straining upon its weakest link. On a Sunday, in broad, open daylight, a mob of almost one thousand men, following a lengthy lecture from sworn officials of the law, take a critically wounded Negro and drag him through the streets of the Negro community, brutally bumping the black boy's brains out on the rough pavement.

The mob scene is horrible. Young girls and boys witness the barbaric destruction of a human being, and an entire community enjoys a Roman holiday. Law and order completely break down, while a Negro is burned.

But this writer is not so much concerned with what happened on that shocking Sunday when civilization took wings and departed from Sikeston; what we are interested in is whether under our form of democracy, civilization will return. Sikeston is a part of America and a part of a democracy that guarantees life, liberty and happiness to all citizens. Will the law again start functioning in Sikeston and inflict penalties upon those who violated the law of God and man, which says "Thou shalt not kill"?

On our dest lies a copy of the St. Louis Star-Times. Under the heading, "No Arrests in Lynching Until March," we learn that County Attorney David E. Blanton announces that Scott county will not make any arrests until after a grand jury is called in March. Although Blanton now says he recognized some of the members of the mob, and has questioned them, there will be no arrests until after a grand jury is called in the vague and indefinite future.

It will be noted, with respect to Blanton, that his father, who edits the local white newspaper in Sikeston, has openly said that the slaying of Cleo Wright was deserved. It will also be remembered that a state policeman led the mob through "Sunset," the Negro community. One Negro, who witnessed the activities of the mob, has stated there were four cars of state police that mingled with the mob. We wonder whether the presence of so many "prominent" citizens in the lynching party is causing the county prosecutor to shy from his responsibility and duty? We wonder whether any of the prosecutor's relatives is included among the known murderers? We wonder whether or not a prosecutor from Jefferson City would measure even-handed justice to the citizens of Sikeston better than one chosen by local self-government?

FEB 7 -1942

And then we wonder, too, if Negroes had staged the same sort of fanatical raid on the white community at Sikeston, whether County Attorney Blanton would feel the matter should wait until March for investigation? The mob's acted to murder and destroy a young Negro who was the victim of suspicion. There is no evidence to prove

murderer, and in
investigation may
is brutality, hypo

he was anything more than a scared petty thief. Neither of the white women involved allege the black man sought to hold immoral relationship with them.

You stop and think about it. This did not happen in Berlin or Tokyo; but in the United States of America a human being is soaked in oil and burned in daylight between two Negro churches. The charred body is permitted to lie in the dirt near the railroad tracks for five hours. No inquest is held for fear of having to name theinhuman

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

NEGRO FEAR AND WHITE SILENCE KEEP SIKESTON LYNCHING QUIET; WOULD TALK WITH PROTECTION

If Race Man Named White Who Participated in Mob It Would Take State Militia to Protect Him

MAR 7 - 1942

MANY NEGROES FLEE CITY

MAR 7 - 1942

By SAM McKIBBEN

SIKESTON, Mo.—(ANP)—Two forces, the uncontrolled, unrestrained fear on the part of Negroes, and the steadfast silence of whites, combine and the most acrimonious act in Missouri history, the lynching of Cleo Wright, 26-year-old Negro at Sikeston, Sunday morning, January 25, will go down in the records as an incident for which no one will be punished. MAR 7 - 1942

Being one of the first two Negro reporters to reach the scene this writer is in position to charge that there are Negroes willing to talk provided they are given protection. To name any of the whites involved, and there are some who could, would be sheer suicide unless the state militia was called out to protect them. After the trial, if the witness lived through it, an escort would be needed to get the said witness out of Sikeston.

Justifiable Fear

No one argues that it's better to be a live coward than a dead hero, but the Sikeston Negroes want justice done. If sufficient funds are provided to tide them over until they can make adjustments in other places, and protection given them during the trial, there are some courageous enough Negroes to do what the whites refuse to do, name some of the lynch-party ringleaders. MAR 7 - 1942

However, when these Negroes recall the brutal Texas courtroom killing of Bob White and Matt Mouroux and the subsequent verdicts of acquittal in the Bob White case, and no verdict, as yet, in the Matt Mouroux case, their fears are justified.

Flee in Terror

Terrified, and driving into a cold, penetrating rain that dull, bleak and drab Monday morning following the lynching, hundreds of Sikeston Negroes fled never to return for their meager personal effects and household goods.

With nowhere to go but to the grave after they talk, and no means of getting elsewhere if they could after talking, the Negroes sit tight and say nothing. Justice will be thwarted just as the laws have been flaunted. MAR 7 - 1942

Attitude of Whites

Sikeston whites dull their conscience by firmly believing that they had a duty to perform and performed it to the best of their ability. With that thought uppermost in their minds, the white citizenry remains adamant in a decision to "know nothing and tell less." In discussing the incident with Negro reporters, the whites smirk and make no effort to conceal their elation.

Other Angles

It has been admitted that the local police authorities made no effort to protect Cleo Wright, and the state highway patrolmen didn't do any more, if results speak for themselves. Wright was said to have been under arrest, yet he wasn't confined behind the protection of Sikeston's strong enough-looking jail bars.

A pair of unlocked swinging doors, and a flimsy panel door, with a glass in it, fastened with a ten cent store lock, was all between Cleo Wright and a hideous death that overtook him, more by premeditation, so this writer believes, than by the violence supposedly attendant to mobs. MAR 7 - 1942

Talk Fails

The Sikeston chief of police, in talking to this reporter, said that he talked to the mob, asked it to disband, and did nothing when they pushed him aside to claim HIS prisoner! The chief said he couldn't shoot into the crowd for fear of hitting an innocent person, and the Sikeston force has no tear gas bombs. MAR 7 - 1942

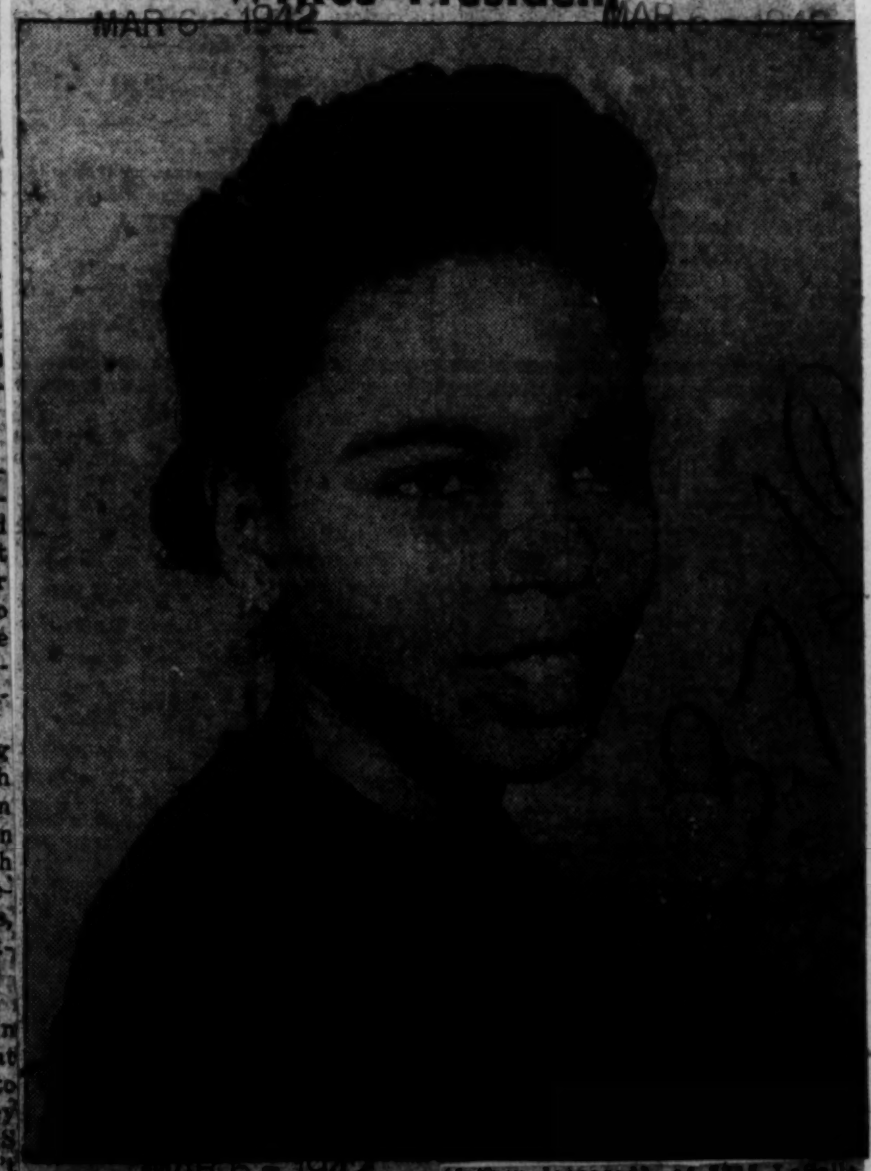
In the face of a set-up of this nature, who can blame the Sikeston Negroes for not naming the whites they know and saw? The filling station operator who furnished the gasoline, the man who lighted the match are known to Negroes because their respective business places are in the immediate proximity of Sunset addition where the lynching took place.

Money, we believe, will bring some of the mob members to trial. A fund large enough to get the informant and family, if any, away from Sikeston, and tide them over until the bread-winner found employment in a locality far removed from Sikeston, is a challenge to the civilized world. Provide the money, the Negroes will name some of the lynchers—the next move will be up to Missouri.

Argus
St. Louis; Missouri

Writes President

MAR 6 - 1942



Barbara Grigg, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pebby Griggs (father deceased), of 3715 Labadie street, who wrote a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, condemning the lynching of Cleo Wright and received a reply from the Department of Justice.

The young Miss Grigg, a Vashon High School student, is a fine example of the present generation of Negro youth who are ready to fight for their rights and justice guaranteed the race by the constitution of their country.

Star of Zion
Charlotte, N. C.

Mob Violence

FEB 12 1942

Mob violence, predicated primarily upon race prejudice, has again shown its ugly head in the State of Missouri. News despatches tell of "a violent mob attack on a meeting of share-croppers . . . on Friday, January 16th" and on the 26th of January, just ten days later, another Missouri mob staged the first lynching of 1942. FEB 12 1942

In the case of the lynching, the victim, if he were guilty as charged, certainly deserved death. We make no attempt to condone the heinous crime of criminal assault; neither do we draw any distinction between that offence if perpetrated upon a white woman by a Negro, or a Negro woman by a white man. Indeed, we shudder to think what our reaction would be, if we were immediately concerned.

However, we cannot escape the sensible conclusion that any society is immeasurably damaged when one criminal, worthy of death, if guilty, is done to death by a mob of 300, thus making 300 murderers, who had the false notion they were improving their society by taking the law into their own hands and punishing another criminal, who, by the law which that society has made, should be tried according to the law. FEB 12 1942

It is by no means strange or news tha this mob murder took place on Sunlay, in a community which in all probability thinks of itself as a normal Christian community. It recalls a double lynching which took place in beautiful St. James Park, San Jose, Calif., on a Sunday night. The victims in this instance, however, were white, and the mob was undoubtedly encouraged by the public statement of the governor that he would not call out the state troops to protect the prisoners and to preserve law and order.

It is encouraging, however, to note that lynchings are definitely on the decline, largely due to the fight which is being carried on by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. Lynchings decreased from 153 in the five-year period, 1922-1926 to 71 in 1927-1931; taking an upturn in 1932-1936 to 79; the number decreased in the next five-year period, 1937-1941 to 26, with only four in 1941. Though there were court-room murders, which were a very serious blot and reflection on this record.

37d(1)-1942
Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

-SOUTHERN

6854

On The Shubuta Lynchings

(From The Jackson, Miss. Advocate)

OCT 20 1942

Over in Shubuta, in Clarke County, Mississippi, last Sunday, a mob, after supposedly over-powering the jailer, took two fourteen-year-old Negro boys, who had been arrested a few days before and allegedly confessed to the attempted rape of a thirteen-year-old white firl, and hung them from an old railroad bridge, the scene of their attempted crime, where their bodies were found early Monday, by a searching party, headed by the county sheriff, the gruesome evidence of their lynching.

In reviewing the long history of the crime of lynching in Mississippi, the Shubuta lynching is by far the worst to have blotted the fair name of the state, made a mockery of justice, law and order, and defiled the righ and noble claims and hopes of the ideas and ideals of Christian Democratic Civilization.

OCT 20 1942

Added to the effects of an already overburdening number of incidents of oppression and suppression occurring almost daily, the Shubuta lynching, at such a time as this, when Negroes are sending their sons to the armed forces of the nation to fight and die for the principles of Christian Democratic Civilization, when they are laboring to make the fullest contribution to the war effort on the home front, might well have resulted in a complete breakdown of Negro spirit and morale in Mississippi.

Indeed, the Shubuta lynchings would seem to all but justify the growing fears being widely felt among Negroes throughout Mississippi, that the spirit of the Dred Scott Decision, as expressed by Justice Taney—that a Negro had no rights that a white man was bound to respect—was about to prevail in the state.

As bad as were the Shubuta crimes, it will be a far greater crime to allow those responsible for it to go unpunished.

OCT 20 1942

It was therefore heartening and reassuring to the Negroes of Mississippi when Governor Johnson publicly expressed his condemnation of the lynchings, asserted that he would do everything that it was his duty as Governor to do to see that the guilty parties were apprehended and punished, and that such acts were spots upon the good name of Mississippi and condemned by the better class of its people.

Youth Ask Attorney General For Action In Child Lynching

The Informer
OCT 24 1942
Houston, Tex.

OCT 24 1942

NEW YORK—"The mutual lynching of two Negro youth, Charles Lang and Ernest Green, by a Mississippi mob on last Monday, call for immediate and forthright action on the part of the attorney general and every liberty loving American citizen," the National Council of Negro Youth declared this week.

"The conscience of America must cry out against this heinous crime, and the mobsters must be caught and brought to justice," the statement added.

"Hitler's co-workers in America continue to do his work while the freedom-loving countries battle for their very existence on the front lines of Stalingrad in China and in the Solomon Islands.

Nazi Activity

"This shameful lynching is comparable only to the brutal atrocities committed in territories taken over by the Nazis in Lidice, in the occupied territory of Russia and hangs heavily over the head of American Democracy.

"Sabotage is running rampant while America gears herself for an all-out offensive against Hitler and his satellites. These lynchings are a direct blow at national unity so badly needed at this hour of the greatest crisis that freedom-loving people have ever faced. Negro soldiers cannot go into battle wholeheartedly, while their 14 and 16 year old brothers are being lynched.

"We call upon the President and the attorney general to use their authority to bring these lynchers to justice, to pass the anti-lynch and anti-poll tax bills.

"Negro youth demand that their lives be protected so that they, too, may engage in every phase of the war effort and help to win the victory for the democracies, and for the Negro people."

OCT 24 1942

The statement on behalf of the National Council was issued by Winifred Norman, chairman, and Edward Strong, secretary.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Organize Nat'l Committee To Stop Lynching

OCT 22 1942

Swift Punishment Of Mobsters Is Asked by Group

NEW YORK CITY—(SNS)—Formation of a National Emergency Committee to Stop Lynching, with a program of action to bring about swift punishment of the perpetrators of three lynchings which have occurred in Mississippi during the past week was announced Sunday by Congressman Vito Marcantonio, chairman of the group. The committee was formed at a meeting of thirty Negro and white leaders of organizations held on Mr. Marcantonio's call at the Hotel Roosevelt on Sunday morning.

OCT 22 1942

Plans were formulated, Mr. Marcantonio said, to involve hundreds of prominent persons all over the country in the work of the committee which will include organizations of delegations to visit Governor Paul B. Johnson of Mississippi, and President Roosevelt and other government authorities at Washington.

LYNCHINGS SPUR EFFORT

The incidents from which formation of the group sprung are the lynching of two fourteen-year-old Negro boys, Ernest Green and Charles Lang, on Oct 12, in Clarke County, Miss., and the lynching of Howard Wash, a few miles from the same spot, on October 15.

OCT 22 1942

The meeting was called by Congressman Marcantonio on the basis of a telegram to him from Governor Johnson, in which the Governor stated that "such conduct does not help our situation in a crisis like we are going thrcugh now," and his promise to work for swift prosecution and punishment of the lynchers.

OCT 22 19..

This statement was accepted by the group as the most encouraging attitude yet taken by a Southern governor in a lynching situation. The work of the committee will be devoted to bringing support to actions by the Governor for speedy and effective prosecution. A telegrom signed by all the participants in the meeting was sent to Governor Johnson pledging their support to such action.

WIRE PRESIDENT

OCT 22 1942

At the same time the committee sent a wire to President Roosevelt, urging him to instruct the Attorney General to bring immediate action against the lynchers under the Civil Rights Act, and himself to speak out forthrightly against the treasonous actions of the lynchers and all who seek to disunify the country by persecution of Negroes, and by discrimination.

"Confident that you fully appreciate the disastrous effect of these lynchings on the cause of victory and democracy not only for America but for all the United Nations," the telegram, signed by all participants in the meeting said, "we urge you to speak out in support of every action which the Governor of Mississippi may take to bring these murderous traitors to justice."

OCT 22 1942

"We urge you to give immediate assurance to the American people, including thirteen million Negroes that our government will move immediately to suppress what threatens to create a national disaster for the American people in their effort to win victory for our country. We call upon you to instruct the Attorney General to proceed at once with the prosecution of the lynchers under the Civil Rights law and to take whatever further measures are necessary to stop the Axis agents of Hitler in this country from carrying out their conspiracy against our war effort."

Christian Index
Jackson, Tennessee

MISSISSIPPI LYNCHING REPRESENTS WHITE DEMOCRATIC HYPOCRISY

OCT 29 1942

OCT 29 1942

THE lynching of Charlie Long and Ernest Green, two fourteen year old boys at Quitman, Mississippi, and Howard Wash, 45 years old at Laurel, Mississippi, this month registered three lynchings in Mississippi in one week. These lynchings bear at this time more than the usual hideous cast of barbarism. These inexcusable crimes of lynching are overt acts that naturally play into the hands of the Axis propagandists who prominently use such instances of this purely "American Institution" among its examples of "white democratic hypocrisy."

These acts in the face of such circumstances can never be accounted for. The boys had confessed their attempted crime and Wash had been tried and convicted and was waiting sentence. Governor Johnson of Mississippi has denounced the lynchings as murder and promised to do everything to bring the perpetrators to justice. But even if that was done, (and it will not be done), it will not undo the fact of such barbarous acts which bring the total number of lynchings in Mississippi to the figure of 103 in the last 22 years.

OCT 29 1942

The fact will ever remain that the state and local authorities did nothing to protect the lives of these three helpless persons. They were not moved to places of safety; the jail custodians and the Marshals were not over-powered; neither did any of them ever bear a scratch. If there was no complicity, there was at least proof of negligence. Be it remembered that the neighborhood where the boys were lynched has previously witnessed six other lynchings. To say the least viligance was lacking.

Atlanta Ga., World
October 27, 1942

Group Redoubles Efforts Since Miss. Mob Action

Message Sent To White House By Various Branches

NEW YORK, N. Y.—(SNS)—While the nation awaits the action of state authorities to bring to justice the mobs who recently lynched two Mississippi Negro children and one Negro man within the same week, the NAACP has redoubled its efforts to secure passage of the anti-lynching bill introduced by Congressman Joseph A. Gavagan before the present session of Congress closes. NAACP this week telegraphed to the White House the following message:

"Three lynchings within five days in Mississippi are as much sabotage of our nation's war effort as a bomb in an airplane factory or a shipyard. Nothing angers and embitters thirteen million American Negroes like lynchings. Nothing delights the Axis powers more. Nothing damages America so much in her dealings with Brazil, China and India. The Mississippi mobs gave important aid to Tokio in her task of holding the millions of colored peoples in the Far East. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People calls upon our federal government under your leadership to act swiftly against mob violence not only for the protection of elementary rights of Negro citizens but for the safety of the nation itself in this critical hour."

Each of the NAACP's 497 branches throughout the nation has been instructed to have its membership urge by telegram their respective congressmen to immediately affix signatures to the discharge petition on H. R. 971 now lying on the desk of the speaker of the House of Representatives.

Preparations have been made for the reception of delegates to the fourth annual Youth conference of the NAACP which will meet for three days on the Clark College campus. This is the first time that the conference has met in Atlanta. It is anticipated that about two hundred representatives from the student chapters over the country will attend. The three-day session is from October 30 through November 1.

The conference will meet to discuss "War and Post-war Problems for Negro Youth." Distinguished leaders and speakers from both races will participate in the panels and will lead the discussions.

The keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Buell G. Gallagher, president of Talladega College and Thurgood Marshall, Special Council, New York, will be presented in two radio broadcasts. Forrester B. Washington, Atlanta School of Social Work, Dr. J. W. Nicholson, Gammon Theological Seminary and Madison S. Jones, Jr., director of Youth, New York City, are among other speakers and leaders who will appear during the conference.

Dr. James P. Brawley, president of Clark College will give the welcome address. E. Luther Brookes, Clark College, and Rev. W. R. Wilkes of Allen Temple, Atlanta, will appear on the program Saturday night as speakers.

A cordial invitation is extended to the citizens of Atlanta to attend the sessions of the conference and the educational departments of the churches are requested to send a delegate to the conference. Registration fee for delegates from these departments will be one dollar.

Ample entertainment has been provided for the conference. The Philharmonic Society of Clark College and the Gammon Male Choir, Gammon Theological Seminary, will furnish music and the Verse Speaking Choir of Clark College will present "The Ballad for Americans" on Saturday night.

Birmingham, Ala. News
October 20, 1942

Blame For Lynchings In Mississippi Directed Toward Axis Ideals

Governor Says Certain Elements Have Caused 'Unrest' Among Residents.

JACKSON, Miss.— (AP) —Mississippi's mob violence problem appeared to be headed toward possible national rather than sectional significance Tuesday, following a warning by Gov. Paul Johnson that "disturbing elements . . . aiding the Axis" may have caused "unrest" that resulted in the lynching last week of three Negroes.

The lynchings came at a time when Representative Rankin (D., Miss.) was warning the National House of Representatives that their action in voting to void the poll tax requirements of some Southern states for federal elections might result in violence.

Before Gov. Johnson issued his warning and a plea to both white and Negro citizens for "unity . . . and patriotism," he had received a letter from the Workers Defense League charging that persons who participated in the lynchings are guilty "of acts more harmful to the nation than the worst case of industrial sabotage ever reported," and urging action by the governor, President Roosevelt and Atty. Gen. Biddle.

Later Monday, a Grand Jury in Laurel, Miss., called into special session Saturday to investigate the lynching of a Negro, was discharged by the judge after submitting a final report which did not even mention the lynching.

Other developments included the unsuccessful search for another Negro, accused of shooting to death a sheriff who had attempted to arrest him on a liquor charge, and the adoption by the Baptist Ministers Association of Southeast Mississippi, in session at Laurel, of a resolution deploring "the fact that the majesty of the law of God and man is being discounted."

In nearby Shreveport, La., meanwhile, a jury deliberated two and a half minutes before finding an 18-year-old Negro guilty of a charge of attempted criminal attack on a 9-year-old Shreveport girl last Sept. 29—a verdict carrying with it a mandatory sentence of death in the electric chair.

The Negro lynched near Laurel, Howard Wash, had been convicted of killing his employer, Clint Wilborn, dairyman and farmer, last May 8 and was facing a sentence of life imprisonment. The other two, Charlie Lang and Ernest Green, Negro youths of 14, were taken from the Quitman Jail after they had entered pleas of guilty to charges of attempted criminal attack of a 13-year-old girl.

37d(1)-1942

6855

CONCERNING WAR AIMS

Lynching of children and men in Mississippi and the refusal of the governing powers of the South to permit Negroes to vote emphasize the need for a statement of war aims, which are responsive to the ambitions of minority peoples. Neither the Atlantic Charter nor the Four Freedoms are definite enough, both failing to make it clear that the democratic nations are resolved to grant freedom and equality to the so-called inferior people.

True, Negroes are fighting in this war but there is no enthusiasm, nor is there likely to be until the United Nations give to them, the people of India, China, and Africa the assurance that unfair restrictions and discriminations will be moved.

NOV 7 1942

It is becoming increasingly clear that neither America nor England dares to put into practice the intendments of the Atlantic Charter or any other noble declaration on freedom where it concerns the rights of oppressed minorities. America, led by its Rankins and Connleys, wants the world to go all out fighting for the perogatives the white race has enjoyed in the past, but doesn't even want to discuss the possibilities of granting ordinary privileges of citizenship to the minorities, who have been shamefully exploited under the old systems.

It is time for America and England to face the consequences of their platform for liberty and freedom. Negroes, Chinese, and Indians know it is time that they be given some earnest of America and Britains intent to abandon the injustices which have inhered in their past policies, resulting in the oppression of people, whom they are asking to fight for the defense of liberty.

NOV 7 - 1942

What does America intend to do about the disfranchised Negro in the South? What about the inequalities in educational facilities and the denial of the right to work at anything except common labor? Are Negroes expected to fight this war for the preservation of intolerable injustices? Implicit in our cause is the idea of freedom and justice for all men, why shouldn't America and England so declare without cavil and evasion?

The right to vote, to work, to educate one's children, and to live free from lynching is more fundamental than the right to trade freely and to enjoy the choice of one's own government. America and England are either fighting for all of the above or for the latter two. If they are fighting for all of them, then they should be willing that all men enjoy the same. If they are fighting for the latter two, it is because they feel secure in the possession of the former four, and they should still be in favor of all men enjoying them. Why don't they say so? And why don't they practice it by conceding the privileges to all minorities under their control?

NOV 7 - 1942

Let America and England openly declare for freedom and justice for all men and begin to effectuate the declaration by granting freedom to minorities and subject nations, and they will set afire the imagination and support of the millions of minorities now under the flag of the United Nations.

SOUTHERN
Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

MISSISSIPPI PAPER BLAMES LYNCHING ON MRS. ROOSEVELT

Nov 14 1942

The Summit Sun, white newspaper of Summit, Miss., in a ridiculous editorial blamed the recent lynching of two schools boys and a farmer in that state on the utterances of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Here is the absurd article:

"Dear Eleanor Roosevelt:

"Three lynchings in the state of Mississippi alone—and God only knows how many more in the offing in our Negroes fail to heed the warnings thus offered. The work of 70 or 80 years on the part of law-abiding citizens to try to eradicate this curse wiped out thanks to your meddlesome-mattiness. Of course, you're not the only one, but you are certainly the 'ring leader' in all this racial agitation.

"Our columnist, A. C. Anderson refers to the 'Negro-loving politicians' who have caused this. He is so wrong. He meant you first, no doubt because you hold high rank among the politicians of the nation and have been more vocal than all the others together.

"Southern-Haters"

"But you people are not Negro-lovers; you are merely Southern-haters. In your misguided zeal you have opened the door to things we of the South who appreciate our Negroes had never thought to see again. How we have watched our 'no lynchings' record here in Mississippi in years before you came along with your misguided notion of what is good for the South! How proud we were of that record!

"Madame, remember this: We of the South may be a little strange to you, but we like us. We like our own way of doing things. We are not holding Negroes here by force. They have the right, any day they want to, to move next door to the people up your way who profess to be their friends. But a lot of them have decided to cast their lots in the South just the same. They are as jealous of their racial identity as we are of ours. And we are proud of their pride. Don't over look that.

"In short, Mrs. Roosevelt, you are meddling in something you know nothing about—and you are making the ghosts of the K. K. K. walk again, because there are people in the South, just as there are in the North, the East and the West who are not friends of the Negro—people who hate them and would like to see all of them either shipped to Africa or done away with.

"These are forceful beliefs you are tampering with Madame. And we had gone a long way toward amicable racial relations until you any your kind stirred all of it up again. Now, where are we? Back where we were in the days of disgraceful law-violations, mobs and lynchings. I hope you are proud of yourself as First Lady of the Land. I'm not.

"It might interest you (though I frankly doubt it) to know that a Negro recently wrote the Commercial Appeal concerning the racial question. "Like other races, the Negro is interested in the companionship of his own group and wants to retain his racial identity.

"By and large, the Negro is not interested in "social or racial equality" as used in some of these letters, because there are many things which are much more fundamental in his progress and security.

...."For his family and himself—above all else—he needs and wants education; he wants to be wanted; he wants opportunity to work usefully and creatively to the extent of his ability, training and experience will permit; he wants security which will make possible freedom from fear and want, violence of law and order, unemployment, dependency and sickness.

"But that sort of feeling you cannot appreciate, can you? Well, if the K. K. K. continues to hunt us and mob violence is the order of the South's day here in wartime when there should be unity, you can thank yourself, madam. No one else will—not even the Negroes whom you profess to love. In fact, they, least of all."

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Public Prayer On New York City Hall Steps A Lynching Protest

NOV 14 1942

NEW YORK, N. Y. — Members of the City Council were scheduled to participate in public prayer on the steps of City Hall on Monday at noon in protest against the lynching of two teen-age Negro boys in Mississippi two weeks ago. The appeal to the Council was made last week by A. Clayton Powell, only Negro member of the legislative body. Powell announced that the prayer asking that lynching be wiped out was to be offered by a Catholic priest, a Protestant minister and a Jewish rabbi.

"I have recently returned from a trip to the deep south and the midwest and I am tragically concerned about the Negroes' attitude toward the war effort," Councilman Powell said.

He pointed to the recent lynchings of Charles Lang and Ernest Green as a step weakening the war effort and the fight for democracy. NOV 14 1942

BACKERS OF MOVE

The City Hall public prayer ceremony is being backed by the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance, whose president is Rev. S. H. Sweeney of St. Marks Methodist Episcopal Church; the Baptist Ministers Conference of greater New York and Catholic, Protestant and Jewish religious leaders throughout the city.

The Rev. S. T. Eldridge, president of the Baptist Ministers Conference, was to have participated in the ceremonies. The Rev. Skelton Hale Bishop, rector of St. Philip's P. E. Church, was to participate in the public prayer with the Rev. William Lloyd Imes, pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church. NOV 14 1942

Persons attending the prayer were asked to wear crepe bands on their arms to indicate mourning for the Negro youths who were murdered by the Mississippi mob.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Group Points Out Mobsters Aid The Enemy

Ask Governor To Place Attorney General On Cases

Nov. 21, 1942

JACKSON, Miss., (ANP)—Negro and white community leaders from 22 Mississippi cities commended Gov. Paul B. Johnson and appealed to him for assurances of prosecution of the guilty persons who lynched two 14-year-old boys and a 45-year-old man six weeks ago.

The commendation and appeal was contained in an open letter to the state's head that appeared in the Jackson Clarion-Ledger, Wednesday as an advertisement.

LYNCHING IS MURDER

The letter thanked the governor for "sustaining the best of our southern traditions" by "placing the label of murder" on the lynchings and "ordering the law enforcement machinery of Mississippi to apprehend and punish the guilty."

Gov. Johnson was told by the signers of the document that his stand on the lynchings "assures us that Mississippi and the South will not become a bridgehead of fascism in America."

"We are sure that your statements, worthy of a great state, will reassure the people of Mississippi and the Negro citizens of the south that our democratic institutions are not disintegrating at a time when their full strength is essential to a strong nation engaged in a life and death struggle," stated the letter.

ENEMIES USE INCIDENTS

"Your statements and actions indicate an awareness of the seriousness of these violent incidents, not only because of their disastrous effect upon the morale of our own people, but because of the use to which our axis enemies put them to weaken the loyalties of our allies, especially the more than 600,000,000 allies of colored races.

We would like to inquire if you have ascertained whether or not the district attorney is actively seeking to prosecute the guilty persons.

"If he is not doing so, then we express the earnest hope that you will direct the attorney general of Mississippi, as the chief law enforcement officer of the state, to intervene under the authority which we understand is given you under the statute."

THE SIGNERS

Among signers of the letter were Dr. Jacob L. Reddix, president of Jackson college; Ben A. Green, mayor of Mound Bayou; Mrs. R. O. Hubert, president of the Mississippi Federation of Colored Women's clubs; Rabbi Meyer Levitt; Judge J. Morgan Stevens; Miss Susie Powell, president of the State Women's Christian Temperance Union; and Dr. Alfred Humo, chancellor of the University of Mississippi.

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Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

NAACP Deplores Lynchings And Police Brutality

Members of the Atlanta branch of the NAACP Tuesday night went on record as condemning the lynching of two 14-year-old boys in Mississippi this week and the brutal manner in which a soldier was treated last week by policemen in South Georgia, and authorized the Rev. W. R. Wilkes, president of the local organization, to wire messages of protest to proper authorities.

OCT 14 1942

C. A. Scott's motion, which urged that immediate action be taken in prosecuting the murderers of the two Mississippi boys, called for President Wilkes to wire messages of protest to President Roosevelt, Governor Paul Johnson of Mississippi, and Walter White, executive secretary of the national body of the NAACP. The motion was seconded by Attorney A. T. Walden.

TO PROTEST TO F. D. R.

Mrs. H. C. Hamilton's motion called on the president of the local branch to send messages of protest to President Roosevelt, Secretary of War, Stimson and Walter White, condemning the mistreatment suffered by Prince A. Williams, an Atlantan now in the armed forces.

Mr. Scott, in putting his motion before the house, said the lynchings in Mississippi "affect all Negroes," and in addition, news of the lynchings will be circulated by "our enemies" as means of hurting colored people of other countries.

Attorney A. T. Walden, in presenting the case of the soldier to the body, said an investigation is underway to determine if any action can be taken against a bus company. The soldier was removed from a bus and beaten by officers after crowded conditions of the bus had brought about words between the bus driver and the soldier.

Attorney Walden said he had contacted the legal committee of the national body of the NAACP to see what steps should be taken in the matter. He declared it would be useless to attempt to prosecute the officers who attacked the soldier inasmuch as the case would have to be tried in the county in which the officers work.

Members of the organization voted the sum of $50 to the NAACP Youth Council at Clark College where the Council will be host to the National Conference of the NAACP youth organizations October 30-November

OCT 14 1942

BELL AND INMAN HEAD

W. Y. Bell, Jr., executive secretary of the Atlanta Urban League, and Earl Inman, of the NYA, brought useful facts to the group.

Mr. Bell's talk centered around National Defense training jobs. He said although there is no assurance as yet that Negroes will be given skilled jobs at the Bell Bomber Plant, scheduled to open soon, at least 39 colored persons will be given mechanical aptitude tests Saturday. These tests will qualify men for jobs as instructors at Defense classes which will be started soon at Booker T. Washington High School.

Mr. Inman's talk showed that the NYA is doing a fine job here and throughout the state for colored youths. The only difficulty, he said, is getting youths to take the courses.

He said it is hard to get a full quota of young men to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the NYA. Mr. Inman explained that young men, between the ages of 16 and 24 are paid $24.40 per month to learn how to become machine shop workers, auto mechanics, welders and sheet metal workers.

OCT 14 1942

GIVEN GOOD-PAYING JOBS

After completing a two-month training period, the youths are given good-paying jobs in War plants, Mr. Inman pointed out.

Young men are accepted without any red tape at the old Clark College site, the speaker told the gathering.

Mrs. Ruby Blackburn, campaign chairman for the local branch, reported additional contributions. She reported $8 for the Seventh Day Adventist Church, $5 for the Fourteen New Yorkers Club, and $5 for the Hunter Terrace Community Club.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Mississippians Stirred By Three Mob Outrages

OCT 22 1942

Governor Holds Conference With Negro Leaders

OCT 22 1942

JACKSON, Miss.—(S N S)—Increased interracial strain and fear occasioned by the triple lynchings and another attempted lynching—all within the past week in Mississippi, bid fair to precipitate more serious consequences involving the security of whites and blacks of that state.

OCT 22 1942

Speaking to a Negro delegation with reference to the shameful lynchings under his administration, Governor Johnson explained that he would recall two companies the State militia sent to Hazelhurst, in an effort to prevent a fourth lynching in the State Saturday night, after Deputy Sheriff John Box was fatally shot as he attempted to arrest John A. Catchings.

Writing editorially in his paper, The Jackson Advocate, Mr. Percy Green, fearing the ontowards danger signals for racial strains, said: "Up in Washington last week, Congressman John E. Rankin, representing the First Congressional District of Mississippi, speaking in protest against the passage of the law prohibiting the requirement of the payment of poll taxes as a prerequisite for voting declared: 'we of the South know how to deal with the problem,' declared that "segregation," was the only possible of four ways to deal with the problem, listing the others as 'deportation, extermination, and amalgamation.'

OCT 22 1942

Addressing a letter to Joe Lewis, intended to reply to previous letter appealing to him to give a favorable vote on the Anti-poll tax Bill, Senator Bilbo said: "This bill is clearly unconstitutional and is an insult to the sovereignity of every state in the Union. . . . We have a few negrophilists in the North who think this means that Negroes of the South will be permitted to participate in and control politics of the south but they have another guess coming. Do not let anyone fool you. The only hope for the Negro race is to be resettled in West Africa and I am pleased to inform you that I have over 4 million petitioners of the Negro race asking that this be done."

OCT 22 1942

Negroes of Mississippi are resentful towards the expressed feelings of letters as shown in the above expression. The recent lynchings, the long trend of abuses on the busses, trains, and at filling stations and even other points of contacts, serve to foreshadow a dark and gloomy future for racial relations in the State.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Dixie Governor Admits Lynchings Aids the axis

OCT 24 1942

Gov. Paul B. Johnson of Mississippi, who attracted wide attention by his quick and unusually (for the South) liberal stand against lynchings, went a step further Monday, branded lynch mobsters as fifth columnists. Said Johnson: ". . . . disturbing elements . . . aiding the axis . . ." are at work in his state.

Two companies of state troops have been ordered out by Johnson in the hope of beating a mob in the search for a fourth victim, John Catchings, wanted for the alleged fatal shooting of Sheriff John Box when the latter tried to arrest him.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Lynching Target Of National Body

OCT 27 1942

CHICAGO—(ANP)—Pledging dynamic participation in the war effort and complete support of defense programs toward the end that, through an allied victory, peace, justice, freedom and brotherhood shall prevail in the world, the National Council of Negro Women meeting here last week established a seven-point program for the execution of its work during the most critical year of its existence. The council, holding a three-day workship during its annual conference, considered the role of the Negro women in the war effort and in post-war reconstruction.

OCT 27 1942

Negro women, as willing to serve their country as Negro men, should not be restricted and limited in training and assignments as they are now, the council declared, and further urged abolishment of the discriminatory policies of the WAVES and the WAFS on the grounds that Negro men are not assigned to positions in the navy which could be be given over to Negro women.

OCT 27 1942

DEPLORE ATROCITY

The lynching of two 14-year-old Negro children in Mississippi was held an atrocity which demands action on the part of every member of the council. It was decided to call upon the President and the supreme court to take immediate action, to send the governor of Mississippi a telegram denouncing the crime and demanding a thorough investigation to the end that all persons responsible be brought to trial and punished, and each council member agreed to attend community mass meetings to protest the barbarous crime.

Speedy passage of anti-lynching and anti-poll tax legislation was urged, and support of the programs of Walter White and the NAACP, as well as of A. Philip Randolph, labor leader, was voiced.

Continuation of the NYA and other educational facilities was advocated, while plans for a nation-wide adult education program promoted by metropolitan chapters of the council within the next three months to disseminate information on training and employment opportunities now available were established.

WOULD PROBE CAMPS

A recommendation for the appointment of a national committee with the adequate representation of Negro women to investigate the condition and morale of men in the camps of the country followed.

The National Council of Negro Women went on record as opposing the Dies committee and as being willing to join forces with any organization or individuals working toward the committee's banishment from the American scene. Defamation of the council's distinguished president, Mary McLeod Bethune, by the Dies' group was an unwarranted and malicious attack, the organization declared.

Reaffirming their belief in democracy and in the sincere efforts being made by many to make democracy work in America, the council paid special tribute to President and Mrs. Franklin D Roosevelt, to Mary McLeod Bethune, for her untiring work in interracial relations, and to the California Shipbuilding Company which recently launched the Booker T. Washington, first liberty ship to be named for a Negro.

Mrs. Roosevelt was described a "shining symbol of democracy and justice," and gratitude was expressed for the First Lady's day to day demonstration of her principles.

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

MISSISSIPPI DOUBLE L[illegible]ING

OCT 16 1942

As a forerunner of what Repres[illegible]tative John Elliott Rankin, Democrat of Mississippi was going to say in support of the poll tax ban by congress, the people of his state lynched two 14-year-old youths to help scare the members of congress into voting for the poll tax ban to the southern states. Of course, this lynching was a bold attempt to intimidate the members of congress and there is no doubt in our minds but that Representative Rankin might be properly charged with being an accessory before the fact. At least it could be truthfully said that the lynchers knew before hand that nothing would be done to punish then for the brutal murder of two innocent children. The "cooked up" story that the two youths had attempted to attack a 12-year-old white schoolgirl and that the youths had "confessed" are the same sort of falsified reports that the lynchers and their accessories have peddled to the public for the last 75 years. And now a later report states that the girl was frightened when she saw two Negro youths near her. Because of this continual lynching and endangering of the lives of Negro men, women and children, the morale of the Negro, especially those in the armed forces, is greatly affected. Therefore, we call upon the President of the United States and congress to take action to protect the lives of its own citizens--the citizens at our door--before they preach so loudly the doctrine that the darker races all over the world will be protected under the guiding hand of the United Nations.

OCT 16 1942

Star of Zion
Charlotte. N. C.

Democracy Lynched

Three persons have been lynched in Mississippi within a single week, two of them boys 14 years of age; the third one, a man, who had already been tried and convicted of the crime charged against him. All this happened in the home state of Congressman John Rankin, who blatantly proclaims that "Representative government is hanging in the balance," in his opposition to abolition of the poll tax.

The two boys, over whom the juvenile courts would have had jurisdiction, were charged with and are said to have confessed attempted rape. That is a serious offense, one with which society cannot temporize. And we cannot under any circumstances condone it. But we do most emphatically insist that rape is rape, whether committed by a Negro against a white woman, or by a white man against a Negro woman. And we shudder to think how many white men would have been lynched in Mississippi, if each one had been lynched who has raped a colored girl or woman. It is interesting to think about, to say the least.

No, we do not condone violation of womanhood at any time by anybody, but neither can we condone this dastardly crime of lynching by white folks, who have all the machinery of the government in their own hands. The man who was lynched had been tried by the courts and convicted, and still the "highly civilized" citizens of the community were not willing to let the law take its course. Such wanton disregard for law is a serious indictment of democracy.

OCT 29 1942

Whenever the law enforcement officials permit a lynching to occur, it proves one of two things: that they are not doing their full duty to uphold the constitution and the majesty of the law; or the people of the community are not capable of maintaining a democracy, or both. In such a community there can be no guarantee of freedom from fear, even when one is law-abiding.

There is one ray of light in the fact that the governor does not condone this orgy of lynching and that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has promised to thoroughly investigate the circumstances of this recent outburst of lynching in Mississippi, which already has a deplorable record in lynchings. We trust it is not too much to hope that something will come of this investigation, and that it will not be a mere waste of time and money.

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Argus

St. Louis, Missour

BACK TO MR. BIDDLE

The failure of the Federal Grand Jury to indict anyone in connection with the Cleo Wright lynching at Sikeston, Missouri January 25, 1942, throws the matter back into the lap of Attorney General Francis C. Biddle. And no doubt the case will go down in history as just another one of those incidents where the arms of the law were paralyzed by the strong pressure of race prejudice.

We think it fair to state here that we have much faith in Francis C. Biddle. He is an exponent of the doctrine of the New Deal which has espoused the cause of the underdog, the underprivileged and the man farthest down. But the mistake that Mr. Biddle made in his famous Missouri case was that he selected the wrong man to represent the Attorney General's office in the investigation—we all make mistakes. Judging from our slight acquaintance with Mr. Jacob M. Lashly and the reputation he sustains as a high class lawyer, we would say he is a nice man. His conduct before the court and his pleadings are, as a rule, pleasing to the casual listener. But evidently he still lives in the horse and buggy days and is short on vision of the times in which we are now living. He evidently believes that the mistreatmcnt of the Negro in this country, despite the upheaval in all the world on account of race prejudice, should remain status quo, in that if a Negro is accused of attacking a white woman, whether he be guilty or not, the failure of officers to protect the accused from mob violence is excusable. And the mere fact that the officers of the law stood by and saw the lynching well done is an act which calls forth praise from the Federal Grand Jury of which Mr. Lashly had charge.

We make this comment supplementing what we said concerning this matter in a previous issue of this paper, with the hope that it will be called to the attention of Attorney General Francis C. Biddle, because in times like these there are many cases of the mistreatment of Negroes such as lynchings, peonage, disfranchisement and the denial of civil and citizenship rights to the Negro, and because the Attorney General is giving special attention to these violations of our constitutional rights. Of course it is understood that Mr. Biddle does not have the time to personally prosecute these cases. But we would suggest that before employing special prosecutors, the prospects be called in conference and quizzed on their liberal attitude toward the interpretation of the constitutional provisions as they affect the Negroes and if the said prospects show a disposition of pussy-footing, they should immediately be rejected.

Back to the St. Louis case—had it been ours to select an attorney with liberal views on the race question, we would have thought of a man like Victor B. Harris, attorney for the St. Louis Civil Liberties Committee, who during a public address over the radio said: "The Sikeston lynching was worth a million soldiers to Adolf Hitler." It is our judgment that had there been a man in charge of a Federal Grand Jury with such liberal views as Mr. Victor Harris, a different story would have been published to the world with respect to the indictment of the lynchers of Cleo Wright.

If the lynching of Cleo Wright was worth a million soldiers to Adolf Hitler, we feel safe in saying that the failure of the Federal Grand Jury to return an indictment in the Sikeston case must have caused Hirohito to dance a jig as he proclaimed this sort of thing as a standard of American justice to the darker races.

SOUTHERN

Argus

St. Louis, Missouri

SIKESTON AGAIN

As a direct result of the failure of the Scott County Grand Jury and the Federal Grand Jury in St. Louis to indict, prosecute and convict the members of the mob which lynched Cleo Wright at Sikeston, Missouri last January, the mob spirit is still running high in that community. Following the recent outbreak of lawlessness in the little town of Sikeston during which a mob attempted to seize and do bodily harm to Rev. J. B. Ross, Governor Donnell has made a feeble statement saying the matter will be investigated by the state. And that is that.

However, the seriousness of the situation in Scott County is the assumption on the part of the hoodlum element that it is nobody's business but their own if they lynch and burn Negroes at will, and the "government be damned."

Not that Rev. Ross was stirring up strife in that community, but rather the fact that the United States government had interferred and that the newspapers, both Negro and white dailies and weeklies, have conducted this lynching far and wide, has made the hoodlum element thirsty for revenge on someone, and because Rev. Ross was a member of the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and had made a trip to California to attend the national gathering, the wrath of the white people of Sikeston was visited upon him.

Of course for many years we have heard that race prejudice is blind to reason. What a pity, what a pity!! Just think of it! If these people could possibly divest themselves of racial prejudice and think in the terms of logic and reason for any given time, they would see how the criticisms which have been heaped upon the Sikeston community in the prosecution of the Cleo Wright case were only to help them—help them in the eyes of the world as a civilized community. It is an established fact and everybody knows it to be the case, that such outbursts of passion may only be tolerated in a semi-civilized community. Therefore, when the Negroes are fighting against lynching and the injustice of the courts and other discriminations, based upon race and color, they should be encouraged in such a fight because it is a fight for democracy.

Tht President of the United States cannot sit in his chair in the White House and note the injustices that are being heaped upon the colored people of the nation in violation of the letter and spirit of the Constitution of the United States without his soul being dwarfed; nor can the governor of this state or the prosecutor of Scott County see the lynchers of Cleo Wright and the attackers of Rev. Ross go unpunished without their conscienes being smeared with the foulest sort of undemocratic spirit.

Therefore it may be readily seen that the fight that is being made against the injustices in Scott County, if heeded would make that community a better place in which to live for all people—high, low, rich or poor.

We do not know what can be done to further bring the people of Scott County to their normal senses. We cannot see how they can claim to be fighting against Hitlerism when worse than Hiterlism is prevalent in their communities.

Finally, we contend that the government of the United States owes to every citizen the equal protection of the law and when the state or community, fails then it's the duty of the United States to step in and take charge.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

AUG 14 1942

Killing Cannot Be Licensed

In the days before labor took its place beside capital, courts used to refuse injured workers damages on the ground that their "contributory negligence" in working without proper safeguards relieved employers of all fault. By the same heartless reasoning courts hold that the killing of a Negro by lynchers is not an offense punishable by federal law. The fact that the immediate authority over the citizen is the state's and not the federal government, serves as excuse.

For the federal government to permit the state to neglect its duty to the citizen, is to say it can license a lesser authority to do what it cannot. Such a view would not be held in the abstract. But in actual life that is what it amounts to for lynching to be strictly a state matter.

When the state does not safeguard the citizen's property, he can appeal and Uncle Sam listens. But when it is his life that is taken, unless society avenges him, the wrong goes unpunished. The dead cannot appeal.

We look for a more humane and enlightened view to supplant this time-hallowed avoidance of responsibility on the part of the federal government. It admits its guardianship over the citizen if he is outside our national borders, but denies it in the case of Negroes here at home, even when as in the Sikeston instance, it know that the loss of life is also the forfeiture of decency and the violation of law. Life is too sacred for purely legalistic interpretation of laws that might safeguard it.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

AUG 15 1942

A Melancholy Document

THERE has come out of the South an interesting, though melancholy, document, which will no doubt knock on their heels a large number of American people, especially Southern people who have been taking some comfort from the apparent decline in lynchings and mob violence, or who have been comforting themselves with the thought that race relations are—or have been—improving.

The document is in the form of a compilation of facts and figures, entitled "The Changing Character of Lynching." The author is Mrs. Julia Daniel Ames, Executive Director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

The booklet containing 70 pages, has important significance at this time, when certain politicians, organizations, newspapers and individuals, in the deep South particularly, are trying desperately to revive an era of interracial violence, bloodshed and terror which characterized the South during the 1870's and again in the 1890's.

The report is the result of careful study and investigation by the Association, which is composed, we are informed, of approximately 20,000 Southern white women, scattered throughout the Southern States. Under the head of "The Mob Changes its Features," it carries the following sub-titles: "Lynching Concentrates in the Southeast," "Mobs Grow Smaller," "Mobs Drop Claims of Chivalry," "Lynchings For Minor Offenses Increase," and "Lynchings Are Not What They Seem."

It notes, however, that there are more efforts put forth by officers of the law to prevent lynchings, and that frequently within recent years lynchings have been prevented because conscientious officers have outthought and outmaneuvered mobs, but what the Association plainly fears is that during the war, and after, there is going to be a terrible flareup of violence that will be worse than anything that has occurred in the history of the Nation, which, if true, is something to chill the blood in one's veins.

Why Don't You Probe Texas Lynchers? Davis Asks Dies

SEP 29 1942

Daily Worker

Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., executive secretary for the Communist Party in upper Harlem and candidate Representative-at-Large, in Congress, yesterday denounced Martin Dies representative from Texas, as an aid to Hitler.

SEP 29 1942

Dies' latest red-baiting attack on outstanding officials in President Roosevelt's Administration is set to the music of Hitler and the "twisted degenerate Goebbels," said Davis.

Dies had centered his attack, Davis pointed out, on four leading Negroes, all supporters of the war and militant spokesmen for their people.

These four Negroes include Mary McLeod Bethune, E. Franklin Frazier, Eugene C. Holmes and William Pickens. Mrs. Bethune, a member of the National Youth Administration, and a noted educator, who built a school in Daytona, Fla., for underprivileged Negro girls, "represents the finest flower of American womanhood," pointed out Davis.

SEP 29 1942

NO PROBE OF LYNCHERS

"Red-baiting," says Davis, "is the Hitler technique of divide and conquer. Any person with a minimum of general knowledge knows that neither Mrs. Bethune nor the others cited by Dies are members of the Communist Party, although, as free American citizens, they have every right to be, under the Bill of Rights."

Davis turned then to the two Texas lynchings of 1942 and points out that Dies never investigated the traitors who committed these bestial crimes.

SEP 29 1942

Dies, he added, is part of the poll tax system in the South from which lynchings grow.

"Dies," continued Davis, "represents the Farley-Bennett, anti-Roosevelt wing of the Democratic Party, just as Dewey represents the lily-white Hoover forces in the Republican Party.

"In the crucial election in New York State the Negro people should answer Dies by voting for labor and Communist win-the-war candidates against both Bennett and Dewey."

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

OCT 18 1942

FDR Lynching Protest Forwards Clark NAACP

The Clark College Chapter of the NAACP has called upon President Roosevelt to investigate the lynching of two fourteen-year-old Mississippi youths last week and bring the perpetrators of this outrage to justice.

Stating that the student body of the Atlanta institution is very much upset by the high crime, the NAACP chapter, in a letter, told Mr. Roosevelt:

OCT 18 1942

"In these perilous times, Mr. President, we can no longer sit blandly, nor can we cooperate with the policy of our government to discriminate, segregate, beat and lynch its people because of race. We are engaged in a struggle, presumably, to preserve our way of life—democracy. We are told daily that if we are to prosecute this war successfully, to a victorious end, we must bend all of our efforts, wills, ingenuity, patriotism and loyalty—which may at its roots obedience plus a very warm feeling for an ideology—cooperatively toward the realization of this end. How strangely cold this leaves us. Can we fight wholg-heartedly for democracy in distant lands when right here at home we, as Brown Americans—a minority group, are denied the participation in the very ideology we are asked, which is our duty as citizens of these United States of America, to help defend?

"What does it all mean? It makes our hearts bleed, our chests contract, our throats clog, our eyes ache from the burning, unshed tears when we read of such maltreatment to our people. We love America and all she stands for. We became Americans the first day we [illegible] foot on these shores—the land that God shed His grace on—in the year 1619. We have served her faithfully. Our fathers had faith but can we, Brown Americans of today, say, 'Faith of our fathers! Living still in spite of dungeon, fire and sword?' "

The letter, signed by Philip Randolph, chapter president, points out that "No doubt it will be said that those persons responsible for the outrage of which we speak were narrow-minded, bigoted law-breakers, but the fact remains that they represent a very formidable faction engaged primarily in [illegible] the destruction of the ideologies of America."

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Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

The Sikeston Lynching And Negro Morale

FEB 5 - 1942

UP IN SIKESTON, MISSOURI the other day a Negro was mobbed and burned, as the aftermath of his having been arrested as a suspect in the crime of attempted rape; and according to the daily press and the radio, the scene can well rank among the most gruesome, brutal and frightful in all "the long annals of that most damaging of all the crimes against Christianity and Democracy."

Following close upon the affair when Negro soldiers and civilians were fired upon and beaten, during the rioting at Alexandria, Louisiana, it is urgent that these incidents be considered in the light of their affect upon the morale of Negro Americans in all sections and segments of the United States. FEB 5 - 1942

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Coming at such a time in the life of the Nation, when there is a most urgent need for complete unity of morale and spirit among all its people, when thousands of Negro youth—some of whom having already made the supreme sacrifice—are joining the armed forces of the Nation, in order to assure to all the world the Christian democratic ideals, as embraced in the four freedoms—cardinal among which is the right of trial by jury—in the Sikeston incident so ruthlessly cast aside; when Negro citizens everywhere are contributing in work and effort; in buying Defense Bonds and Stamps, and clamoring for a still greater opportunity to serve their country in the name of loyalty and patriotism, untarnished in all its history, cannot have failed to add immeasureably to the bewilderment, fear and concern of an already bewildered and frightened people; and no incident or condition in which the Negro was concerned during the present war period has so solely affected Negro morale. FEB 5 - 1942

SOUTH

Booker T. Washington, the great Negro educator and philosopher, great among the great of the South and the Nation, is said to have remarked on one occasion that "NO MAN CAN DO ENOUGH TO ME TO MAKE ME HATE HIM," and despite everything done against him in the past, in spite of the rioting at Alexandria, and the lynching at Sikeston, the Negro of the United States still thinks and hopes in the spirit and wisdom of that sagacious remark, though frightened and bewildered, though his morale is reaching a "new low" he is not harboring hate; in his bewilderment and fear, his morale is being affected because he is unable to understand how so much hatred can be shown to exist against him among those for whom he cherishes neither malice nor ill will.

FEB 5 - 1942

According to the press, the Governor of Missouri has ordered a sweeping investigation, and in an effort to obtain punishment of the guilty parties, certain organizations have raised a reward fund of five thousand dollars, which is all very good, but, frankly, the trial and punishment of a few individuals would have little or no effect upon the latent mob spirit, and the trial and punishment of a few individuals would have very little effect upon Negro morale.

SOUTHERN

What is most disturbing to the Negro mind under the present circumstances is the almost studied silence regarding his present conditions among those with whom he lives, and believing in the doctrines of Christianity and the principle of democracy as niterpreted for him by the leaders of the Church and State, he has been waiting seventy-five years now for the Church, the spokesmen of Christianity, and the press, the author of democratic public opinion to turn to his aid in times like these. FEB 5 - 1942

The Sikeston incident succeeded in its general purpose of creating fear, uncertainty and bewilderment among the Negroes of America, although we believe, coming at this time, it was a greater shock to the whole nation and the rest of the world, revealing as it did such a lack of unity of spirit and morale among all the nation's people.

In conclusion, we believe that if the Church and the Press, in the sections where Negroes are most often subjects of such actions, would begin now to say more in behalf of the Negro, who harbors no hate, whose patriotism is tried and proven, and against this evil practiced against him, it would, more than any law, or action of law, raise to a "new high" the spirit and morale of the Negro, and be of immeasurable help to the unity of spirit and morale of the whole nation.

—From the Jackson (Miss.) Advocate.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Sikeston, Missouri

FEB 2 1942

Already noted for the Missouri Compromise, the State of Missouri—the show-me region—goes over the top with the year 1942. The Tuskegee report of lynching activities has just rendered its report showing a slight decrease in lynching. While it showed that lynching was on the decline, we contend that one lynching is too much. Now, if the year should close with this single disgrace from Missouri, it will be too much for a country basking in the sunlight of democracy.

One lynching goes to show that a section retains the right to lynch. As a rule the lynchers go free and nothing is done in the line of punishment. It serves notice on possible lynchees that they are not immune from the ugly custom.

FEB 2 1942

We face a new day and have come upon new conditions, such as will require the full measure of the support of every citizen in the country. Such will give a fine comfort in the camps of those who are now bent upon destroying our morale and the national unity by which our country is held together.

It is hard to conceive how the better thinking law abiding citizens of the southern states imagine that they can save the nation upon a proposition of half law and half mob. These are no times for citizens to have to stand up and seek

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revenge for nightriding and hooded law enforcement. The country cannot afford to wink at these crimes, allow those who perpetrate them to go scot free and at the same time appeal to those very citizens it refuses to protect for their faith and fortification. FEB 2 1942

The State of Missouri has an enviable opportunity to spread the lesson of the year over the rest of the nation regarding how lynching will be tolerated.

The governor of Missouri has ordered a special investigation and it is to be hoped it will be thorough and the guilty murders will be appropriately punished.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Twin Enemies of Democracy

FEB 6 - 1942

If America goes down in defeat, some of its own citizens will have contributed to its downfall. Ever since Pearl Harbor, we have known that we are up against a formidable foe. We need every man and need him armed with ample war materiel. Yet some who are beneficiaries of our social order which these fighting men are striving to maintain, undermine it at the very foundation. FEB 6 - 1942

The idea of ship welders striking because of a jurisdictional dispute at a time when Americans in the Philipines and British in Singapore depend upon ships to bring reinforcements! In effect these who get high pay and get it in safety, say the valiant defenders of democracy can wait!

In the prejudiced who keep the race issue going, America has another set of destroyers. We would not take from anyone the satisfaction he has in being white, black, brown or yellow. But with Japan sounding "Asia for Asiat-

ics" in order to rally the yellow and brown people of the east to combine against whites, this is no time for the race issue to be even talked of here. Even if America does not live up to its democratic professions generally, we must do so now when we want our Chinese friends, our West Indian neighbors and all the mixed peoples to the south of us to help us.

United States officials recognize the danger that lies in Japan's appeal to race. Attorney General Biddle said Monday: "I want to point out that the persecution of aliens—economic or social—can be a 2-edged sword. Such persecution can easily drive people, now loyal, into fifth column activities." What the attorney general says of the effects of persecution of one man holds for groups. Beyond question Sikeston, Missouri by lynching a Negro took from the sum total of Negro support of national defense more than a division of Jap soldiers could destroy. No man is proof against reacting to hatred that is aimed at his race simply because God saw fit to make it different.

Like the striking welders, the poor whites who carried out the Sikeston lynching are the pampered pets of American politics. They have had their self-esteem fed by leaders of the Blease and Bilbo type who tell them that they are superior. FEB 6 - 1942

These lynchers killed and burned not so much because they hated their victim and his crime, as to show that people of their standing were a law unto themselves. They could have tried, convicted and executed him by law. Instead they tried to be God Almighty for a moment! But they hurt America by so doing! The radio broadcasts of the totalitarians have no need to make up lies. They now have fact with which to illustrate the failure of democracy in the United States.

Yellow and brown men are fighting in the Orient for the cause America has set out to defend. These allies of ours know us only by reputation. It is not asking too much of lynchers and all other intolerants that they be on their good behavior for the duration. The man who says he loves God whom he has not seen, but hates his brother, is a liar, according to the Bible. It is logic too in Malay, in China and in Panama. For selfish advantage, if not from principle, white America should so conduct itself in these perilous times that democracy and freedom will get the best from those disposed to side with us.

Strikers and lynchers might as well be in the pay of the Japs. The enemy could ask no greater service than the division they create among Americans.

Argus.

St. Louis, Missou

GOVERNOR FLOODED WITH PROTESTS

Despite the protestation of Governor Forrest C. Donnell that he is not clothed with authority to deal adequately with the officials and mobsters—the lynchers of Cleo Wright—at Sikeston recently, the public is persistent in its demand on the chief executive of the state to act swiftly and definitely.

Moved by the demands in letters, telegrams from the public and editorials from the leading newspapers of the country which have flooded the governor's desk, the editor of the St. Louis Argus has called upon some of the legal professors of the state to issue an opinion as to the responsibilities which may rest upon the governor in the Sikeston lynching case. Therefore, among opinions received we publish herewith a statement from Attorney S. E. Garner, one of the leading Negro attorneys of St. Louis and a former special assistant to the Attorney General of the state of Missouri.

FEB 6 - 1942

GOVERNOR'S DUTIES

By S. E. Garner

The Governor shall take care that the laws are distributed and faithfully executed; and he shall be a conservator of the peace throughout the State. Sec. 6, Art. 5, Constitution of Mo.

The power to decide whether public exigency exist requiring Call of the State Militia is vested solely in the Governor. McKittrick v. Brown 337 Mo. 281, 85 S. W. (2d) 385.

I am of the opinion that under Sec. 6, Art. 5, Constitution of Missouri, the Governor has the power to take charge of a local situation, only upon proof that the local authorities will not act or are absolutely unable to act for any cause. So long as the local authorities are attempting, that is doing the ordinary things the duties of the office call for apparently in good faith, the Governor will not be justified in resorting to his authority under Sec. 6, Art. 5, Constitution of Missouri.

FEB 6 - 1942

The Governor cannot be compelled by Mandamus to perform any duty, ministerial or political whether commanded by the Constitution or law. State ex rel Stone, 120 Mo. 428, 25 S. W. 376; State ex rel Fletcher 39 Mo. 388.

Getting to the Sikeston Lynching; Sec. 6, Art. 5 of the Constitution of Missouri says that the Governor's duty requires him to take care that the laws are faithfully executed. Now, as to whether or not the laws are faithfully executed is a question of fact. The Governor would not be justified in accepting general statements made, not as a result of an investigation, but by highly nervous and excited people and in most instances interested people, and act on such statements, without a formal investigation. If after a formal investigation, the Governor finds that the local authorities are not acting in good faith and that they are "White washing," he may and should resort to his constitutional power and take charge of the affair.

The Attorney General, being a part of the Executive Department, would be the logical officer designated by the Governor to handle the prosecution in the event the Governor finds that the circumstances justify his intervention.

I do not think the Attorney General has any inherent power to take any action. He must get his orders from the Governor. The Governor may appoint special counsel to act in conjunction with the Attorney General, or the Governor may appoint special counsel to act independent of the Attorney General. The constitution places the duty of seeing that the laws are faithfully executed on the Governor and his hands will not be tied by confining him to the use and services of a limited set of officers, who, themselves, may not be willing to act in good faith.

There are a few circumstances connected with this case that indicate bad faith on the part of the local authorities, but that is not our problem. That is the Governor's problem. We might be able to point out to the Governor convincing evidence that the local authorities are in bad faith. This, I feel, is the duty of every self respecting citizen.

Judging from the language used in Mr. Garner's opinion it seems very clear to us that Governor Donnell will be perfectly within his rights to act in this case because EVERYBODY KNOWS that the officials at Sikeston, including Prosecutor David E. Blanton; chief of police, Walter Kendall; Judge J. E. McDowell and highway patrolman, E. N. Dace, have failed to do their duty. And any act on their part so far as prosecuting or bringing to justice those guilty of the lynching-burning of Cleo Wright will undoubtedly be a FARCE OF THE FIRST RANK. And because of their own words relative to this matter the public will regard all they do in this case as acts of BAD FAITH. FEB 6 - 1942

All evidence, as well as the law, points to the one man in the picture, and that is Governor Forrest C. Donnell. The success or the failure of this investigation will be determined by his actions. He is the man who must have the sincere will to do. He must have the determination to do and the thing will be done. When the attorney general of this state issued an opinion that the duties of the state highway patrol were confined to highway duties, Governor Donnell "TOOK THE BULL BY THE HORNS" and overruled the opinion of the attorney general and ordered the highway patrol to function according to his (Donnell's) conception of the duties of that department. Surely he will do no less in this case.

Afro-American

Baltimore, Maryland

NNC Protests Lynching to President and Governor

FEB 7 - 1942

WASHINGTON

Strong letters of protest against the lynching last week of Cleo Wright of Sikeston, Mo., were sent this week to Governor Forest C. Donnell of Missouri and President Franklin D. Roosevelt by the Washington Council of the National Negro Congress following its meeting Sunday.

The letters, signed Dr. Alpheus W. Hunton, vice-president of the council, urged the governor to press the investigation of the affair with all speed and thoroughness. FEB 7 - 1942

The appeal to President Roosevelt declared: "We are confident that you recognize the real danger to our national morale and, consequently, to our national safety which the lynching of Cleo Wright represents.

"We trust that you will do everything within the power of your office to prevent further aggravation of this danger which will result from failure to bring about prompt and full punishment of the lynchers."

37d1-1942

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

HOUSTON, TEXAS, SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1942

Missouri Lynching Sabotages Civilian Morale

The 750 persons who burned a Negro worker to death in a school yard at Sikeston, Missouri, last Sunday, should be rated as saboteurs of the highest rank. These lynchers, who took a half dead human being and tied his heels to the bumper of a car and sped through the streets at the rate of 75 miles an hour, soaked his body with gasoline and burned it in a semi-conscious condition, did more harm to America and the ideals for which it is fighting, than they did to the Negro race.

These lynchers did not lynch just another Negro, or alleged rapist, but THEY LYNCHED THE SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY. They lynched the very cause for which the brave heroes at Pearl Harbor died on that fatal Sunday morning of December 7, 1941. The mob of nearly 1000 persons which included women, are America's worst enemies in this time of crisis. They are saboteurs worse than those who are seeking to put faulty parts in our air planes, tanks and guns. They are more dangerous than the subvertors who are discourging loyalty to our government in its greatest national emergency.

Every where we are urging unity. Political parties and races are asked to forget their differences and unite in a common cause to destroy our enemies. THERE IS NO NEED FOR THE LYNCHING OF ANY INDIVIDUAL. We have courts and law enforcing agencies in our democracy to take care of any situation, and where a Negro is concerned, he is generally tried before a white jury, prosecuted by a white attorney and sentenced by a white judge. JAN 31 1942

The governor of Missouri was certainly right when he said "Regardless of how guilty a person may be, he is entitled to a fair trial in a court of justice and Cleo Wright, (the mob victim) was not an exception to this rule."

Sometimes ago. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt is reported to have stated that "The United States can not expect the loyalty of the Negro under present conditions." We can not say all the conditions our First Lady had in mind but we feel certain that she, and all others who are interested in making America the arsenal of democracy, and who believe in justice and law, and are unalterably opposed to class, race and religious hatred, are most embarrassed at the Missouri lynching.

As a race, we should not allow the action of that bloodthirsty bunch of hoodlums at Sikeston, to deter us in doing our duty toward our country now. Their action does not represent the spirit upon which our government is founded nor does it represent the spirit of white citizens. North and South, like Mrs. Roosevelt. As we march forth to battle, let us become more imbued with the spirit of the immortal Lincoln, the great Emancipator, who, in a great crisis of this nation, coined the historic statement: "With malice toward none, with charity toward all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive to finish the work we are in." We should remember the 37th Psalms, verses 1-2: "Fret not thyself because of evil doers, neither be thou envious against the workers of uniquity. For they shall be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green

SOUTHERN

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

6859

Good Japanese Propaganda

JAN 31 1942

A loud-mouthed, blantant Southern Senator last week wrecked unity of the Americas at the Pan American Conference at Rio de Janeiro. Sumner Welles, under-secretary of state, almost had Argentina on the verge of breaking with Axis powers, when Senator Connally, of Texas, and chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, proceeded to announce.

JAN 31 1942

"We are trusting that Castillo (acting president of Argentina) will change his mind, or that the Argentina people will change their president."

What do you suppose the American people would have thought, and just how would they have acted, if Anthony Eden or someone else in authority in the British Empire had said while Winston Churchill was in Washington, "Unless Roosevelt accedes to the wishes of Churchill, the American people should change their president." One has to put himself in the exact position of the other follow before he can fully understand how the other fellow feels. JAN 31 1942

No amount of diplomatic language can cover up the fact that the Pan-American Conference was a failure, and one lone braggart, whose tongue is loose at both ends, is the cause of our travail and sorrow. South American Republics know a deal about insurrections and civil wars started among them by folk in other sections of America who happened not to like their government. Senator Connally's remark was considered as a threat. Argentina seeks to evade a political lynching.

And this week something else has happened which is likely to add to our national sorrows. Sunday, at Sikeston, Missouria, a Negro was lynched. Just at the present time America and Japan are courting China. The wiley Japs are now telling the Chinese that Asia should belong to the Asiatics, and that white men should be driven from the Orient.

We imagine that all over China and among all of the darker races the Jap propaganda machine is dropping leaflets today telling of how white men burn colored people, and graphically describing the horrible slaughter of Cleo Wright, cotton mill hand, at Sikeston, Missouri. Would it not be a terrible blow to the allies, and the English speaking white world if China were to make peace with the Japanese Empire, and is it not an effective argument for unity among darker peoples when one can use propaganda such as was manufactured at Sikeston, Missouri, last Sunday? JAN 31 1942

This is a world war. If the Japanese grasp control of the South China Sea, conquer Singapore and the Dutch East Indies, it will be Australia and Africa next to feel yellow penetration. In such a day and hour we suspect the most effective appeal the Japanese could have in spreading revolt among the natives in the hinterlands of the dark continent, would be the picture of the burned torso of Cleo Wright, a Negro, lynched at Sikeston, Missouri, U. S. A. JAN 31 1942

Democracy is today in the crucible and the test. If we win in this world of fire and brimstone we must rid our social order of the Connallys and the mob. In truth, the test of democracy is vested in its attitude towards its weakest group.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Every Killer to Court

JAN 30 1942

It is not becoming for us to prejudge testimony nor prophecy verdicts, but we can with propriety commend the trial by courts of persons who have taken human life. At long last this procedure is in progress with Ellis and LeBaugh, the policemen who killed Harrison Ware. It is as it should be. JAN 30 1942

Consider the alternatives to court trial for killers, the danger invited by leaving judgment to friends of either side. Mountain feuds, one substitute for the courts, lead to a harvest of death. If lynching, another prejudgment of the accused, were 100 per cent right in its condemnations, still it is to be deplored because of the brutalizing effect it has on the public. Up to now most agitation against lynching has come from us who furnish the victims. Actually we are the fortunate ones, the one life we lose being of far less consequence than the wholesale demoralization suffered by mobsters and their relatives. JAN 30 1942

The individual who kills instead of letting the courts adjudicate differences, hurts society. For that reason be he private citizen, or an officer in uniform, we say he should be required to present his defense to a competent tribunal for judgment. That is not asking too much. Having silenced his opponent he enters court with everything in his favor. That is enough. He should not be saved from formal inquiry into his act.

Regardless of the outcome, for Ellis and LeBaugh to be brought to the bar of justice increases respect for the law and aids its enforcement. Head hunting is demoralizing whether done by a savage in a string of beads or by a lyncher mad with blood lust, or by an officer who is judge, jury and executioner all in one.

Trial in court for slayers does not jeopardize them unduly. Self-defense is a competent plea before a judge. Exparte hearings are an admission of fear of a real investigation. We repeat, every slayer should appear in court.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

THE LATEST LYNCHING

JAN 30 1942

All we know about it is what we read in the papers. We are referring to the bestial lynching which took place on SUNDAY MORNING, January 25 in Sikeston, Missouri.

What we read in the papers is that a colored man named Cleo Wright, age 30, a cotton oil mill worker, broke into the home of a white woman shortly after midnight of January 25, attempted to rape the woman, and when she fought him off he stabbed her with a knife.

Later, the papers say, Cleo Wright was apprehended walking along the street by police. They searched him and found the tell-tale, bloody knife in his pocket. They took it from him, called the "wagon" and were taking him to the police station. All at once, the papers say, Wright drew another knife from his pocket and started to cut one of the officers in the "wagon." The officer drew his gun and shot Wright three times, which necessitated that the wounded man be taken to the hospital instead of to jail.

The three gunshot wounds Wright received were quickly fixed up at the hospital and the man was taken from the hospital to jail. A mob of 300 "unidentified" citizens of Sikeston gathered at the hospital but "dispersed" when their intended victim was taken to jail.

But, apparently on second thought they decided that it was as easy to get their man out of jail as out of the hospital. And so they went to the jail. There they were met by the oratory of Chief of Police Walter Kendall and Prosecuting Attorney David Blanton. Oratory held the mob up for only a short time. The "brave and determined" men brushed the two orators aside and forced open two jail doors.

Wright was thrown, unresisting, into the trunk of an automobile and taken to the "Negro district." There he was removed from the trunk, tied behind the car and dragged through the streets. . . .

After dragging Wright for ten city blocks the mob poured oil over his dead body and burned it in the center of a street.

JAN 30 1942

Meanwhile, the mayor of Sikeston and the city council conferred on steps to be taken as a result of the lynching, but were wholly without any prosecuting "evidence" because nobody was able to identify a single member of the mob.

It appears that Chief of Police Kendall and Prosecutor Blanton were so fascinated over the way they were wangling their congregation of lynchers that neither of them was able to recall any of his fellow citizens who had made possible the notable Lord's Day celebration which enabled Sikeston to get its name in the papers.

As said in the beginning of these remarks, all we know about what took place in Sikeston is what we read in the newspapers. We feel sure the sordid details of the way Wright was dispatched to his Maker have been reported accurately.

As to the charge for which he was lynched—that of attempted rape—we refuse to be convinced that the newspapers have done more than lie in orthodox fashion about the case. The records are full of similar reports about lynchings—where the newspaper story was pure concoction.

JAN 30 1942

If Wright were guilty of as atrocious a crime as that with which he was charged, it is a certainty he would have received the supreme penalty at the hands of any jury in his home town and county. The fact that his fellow citizens refused to let him have his day in court gives every fair-minded person the right to believe the charge of rape or attempted rape could not be backed by evidence strong enough to convict the lynched man.

"Conditions will be a helluva lot worse for American Negroes if Hitler wins," says the colored orator.

JAN 30 1942

"You're a liar," says Cleo Wright.

Argus
St. Louis, Missou

Anti-Lynching Mass Meeting Sunday

JAN 30 1942

Because the people of this community are all worked up over the lynching burning at Sikeston, Mo. last Sunday, there will be an anti-lynching mass meeting at the Pine Street 'Y' this Sunday, Feb. 1, at 3 p.m.

The principal speaker at this meeting will be the Rev. J. D. Ross, who fled Sikeston after the state troopers had sought him because he told the governor of the state by telephone that a member of the state highway patrol had led the mob. The Rev. Ross will tell of many of the incidents that played an important part in the lynching-burning of Cleo Wright.

This meeting will be held under the auspices of the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People of which Att'y Sidney R. Redmond is president. Plans for a unified fight to have a federal anti-lynching bill passed will be discussed and also plans for future action will be reported upon.

JAN 30 1942

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Blount— Speaks Softly

By George W. Blount

LYNCHINGS: For the period, 1882 to 1940 inclusive, according to the various sources consulted, there have been in the United States a total of 4695 lynchings: 1291 white and 3404 Negroes. At present the darkness and the fog are clearing [illegible]

JAN 13 1942

The clouds of injustice have broken temporarily and we are now being permitted to have a glimpse or a peep at a possible goal for which many brave and valiant hearted men and women of both races have been fighting for about 60-years. The fight is not yet won and we surely must not stop here.



MR. BLOUNT

The good fight must be continued because there can be no individual safety except in the security for all. A review of the lynching records for the last six years reveals the following figures:

1936—9 lynchings
1937—8 lynchings
1938—6 lynchings
1939—3 lynchings (1 white)
1940—5 lynchings (1 white)
1941—4 lynchings.

There ought not to be any condoning of mob violence. Inasmuch as it is possible for lynchings to occur and re-occur in America and the guilty persons go free again and again there must be something definitely wrong so[illegible]

37d(1)-1942

6860

SOUTHERN

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

ANOTHER BLOT ON MISSOURI

MAR 13 1942

The lynching of Cleo Wright in Sikeston, Missouri January 25, was bad enough, indeed, and a blot on the so-called civilized people of this state, but the farcical investigation of the grand jury at Benton, Missouri, Monday and Tuesday of this week, registers another blot on the honor and integrity of the state, greater than the one caused by the actual lynching-burning of Cleo Wright. The "vigorous investigation" which Governor Forrest C. Donnell assured the public would be made, has fallen flat and the state stands guilty as particeps criminis in this case. Surely this investigation will go down in history as the most farcical that the state has ever seen. We assume that the prosecuting attorney of Scott County, David E. Blanton had the privilege of testifying before the grand jury and we wonder, is it possible that he swore under oath that he did not know any of the leaders of the mob, they being people with whom he comes in contact almost daily? Then, too, there was highway patrolman Melvin Dace. We wonder, did he swear on his oath that he did not know any of the members of the mob that lynched Cleo Wright in the broad open daytime on January 25? There were police officers and the custodian of the jail, all of whom were available to the grand jury. If these people have perjured themselves, then they should be prosecuted for perjury.

MAR 13 1942

Since Governor Donnell has refused to make any public statement since the grand jury has returned no indictment, we wonder, yes, we wonder, if he was sincere about the investigation in the first place. There is an old adage which says, "silence gives consent." We do not know why Governor Donnell maintains his silence, Assistant Attorney General, Harry Kay, who was sent to the scene by Attorney General Roy McKittrick, to assist in the grand jury investigation, must have been "weak" and evidently he, like prosecutor Blanton, was in sympathy with the mob and judging from the instructions given, and the attitude of Judge J. C. McDowell, it would not be amiss to say that the judge was cold toward the investigation.

MAR 13 1942

In the final analysis, we cannot but conclude there is little hope after all of securing a conviction of local people, who participate in a mob, by local people, themselves. Thus we see and appreciate the more the importance of a federal anti-lynching bill. Happily, we have the information that United States Attorney General Francis C. Biddle will make an investigation of this lynching on the behalf of the United States government in which instance there will be no unusual rush because the government will take its time, making a thorough investigation and when it puts its hands upon the "guilty parties," a mistake is seldom made. Therefore, we welcome the anticipated investigation by the FBI.

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

THAT SIKESTON GRAND JURY

MAR 6 - 1942

The eyes of the people of the entire civilized world are focusing upon the grand jury which convenes at Benton, Scott County, Mo., Monday, March 9th. The stench from the lynching-burning of Cleo Wright at Sikeston, Missouri, January 25 has reached the high heavens and in times like these the people are demanding not only a sweeping investigation of this brutal lynching, but they are also demanding that the participants be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

MAR 6 - 1942

Despite the protestation of Governor Forrest C. Donnell of Missouri, and Prosecuting Attorney David E. Blanton of Scott County that the investigation will be thoroughly and honestly carried out, there remains suspicion in the minds of the large majority of the people that powerful forces have their buckets and brushes all ready for a general white-washing of the case and that officials are ready, like Pilate of old, to wash their hands as evidence of their innocence of any wrong-doing.

MAR 6 - 1942

We use the expression that there lurks in the mind of the average citizen throughout the country a suspicion that the Missouri investigation will amount to very little, if anything at all, because past experiences in cases of this kind justify the conclusion. But it so happens in this case that the United States government has found a way to enter into the investigation of facts, leading up to the lynching and has gathered what is generally believed to be sufficient evidence to secure a wholesale conviction in a federal court. Therefore, it is now up to the state officials to prove that they have the will, the desire, the power and the "guts" to prosecute, convict and to mete out punishment to all the guilty parties, commensurate with the crime, which is—MURDER

The lynching-burning of Cleo Wright January 25, 1942 has received to date, more newspaper publicity than any single lynching during the past forty years. The incident has been used by the enemies of the United States to focus the attention of the people of the world upon how the people of the United States treat a minority group of their own citizens with the passive approval of the state and government officials. Germany quickly seized upon the incident to give the lie to the efficacy of the so-called democracies. Japan quickly seized upon the incident to show the spirit of America toward the darker races of the world. And because many of the darker people have traveled in this country and have had a taste of American racial prejudice, this propaganda by Japan has been most effective. In fact, some writers and prognosticators have said that racial prejudice such as is exhibited in the United States will cause the Allied forces to lose this present world conflict.

MAR 6 - 1942

We mention these things in order that the people of Missouri may think and think as the grand jury convenes at Benton next Monday to investigate and fix the blame of the lynching of Cleo Wright upon those who are responsible.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Missouri More Shamed Than Eve

MAR 20 1942

Eleven of the twelve men on the special grand jury that investigated the Sikeston lynching were business men, the perfect type to reflect public opinion. Circuit Judge McDowell, who appointed them, went to unnecessary trouble when he instructed them not to be influenced by what was going on out the county in connection with the case. That one of these outside influences was the Governor who insisted that a grand jury investigate, serves to show how much contempt a lynching community has for decent opinion. Missouri is even more shamed by the investigation than it was by the mob.

Yet this satanic orgy may serve a good purpose. It proves that mob murder will not be punished under the present law. That Sikeston paper knew what it was talking about when it said the lynchers, if indicted, would not be convicted.

MAR 20 1942

Nor can lynching be punished by the usual anti-lynch law. Damages paid by the county to the family of the mob's victim, in this case would be paid cheerfully and charged off to entertainment, so satisfied is Sikeston with what it has done. Correction to be effective must not be indulgence at a price.

We repeat what we have said before when a lynching occurred: It costs one Negro his life; it plants deep in a thousand white homes the seed of future brutality and disrespect for law. Lynching hurts both races.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Harvard Paper Comments on Effects of Lynchings

MAR 21 1942

[EDITOR'S NOTE: The following excerpts are from an editorial appearing in the February 16 issue of the Harvard Crimson, student publication at Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. The opinion is titled "The Disease Within."]

On last January at Sikeston, Mo., Cleo Wright was shot, dragged behind an automobile, and burned in gasoline. That was at 2:30 p.m. At 3:30 the bloody details were known throughout the South, as well as in Malaya, the Philippines, the Dutch East Indies, and the islands of the Pacific.

With a Japanese broadcast to the colored peoples of the world, the American institution of "lynch law" had become a deadly enemy of democracy in a very real as well as in a theoretical sense.

Truth Is Unbeatable

The Japanese know that within three weeks of the declaration of war American lynchings more than doubled, and they realize the power of such propaganda among the brown people of the Dutch and British Empires. It is unbeatable propaganda because it is true, as true as the stories of Fascist barbarism that keeps a conquered Europe friendly to Germany's enemies.

Our blindness, smugness, and self-righteousness are not a state of mind which can communicate to the "little brown brother" on the other side of the globe. We can talk to ourselves and to the British about racial equality, human suffrage, and the right of trial by jury, but Japan is quoting facts and figures to prove that we are guilty of crimes as foul as those we attribute to Hitler's henchmen.

MAR 21 1942

What Is the Answer?

What answer is there to the radio which cautions the world against the democracy which is coming to Asia to hang men without trial or burn them alive? Shall we merely counter with Nazi horror tales, or deny that colored draftees were fired on in North Carolina?

Or would it be better to reassure the Allies' colonials that we reserve such treatment solely for our domestic Negroes?

An educational conversion of the South would take much longer than the available time, which is nil. But some temporary relief may arise from anti-lynch petitions. . . . We cannot afford to let the lobbies, campaigns, and popular waves of indignation continue their peacetime feebleness into the war.

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

Asks Federal Action In Texas Lynching Case

The following telegram calling for action about the lynching in Texas was forwarded to the president Tuesday by the Negro Business League regional president, U. S. Falls.

July 14, 1942

President Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D. C.

On behalf of the Negro Business Men of Missouri, Kansas and Iowa, we protest the lynching of Willie Vinson at Texarkana in view of the present world wide battle for democracy and urge that you take an active role as leader of our country and launch a federal investigation that will bring about the punishment of the mob members as a part an enemy to democracy is Hitler.

U. S. Falls, regional, vice president.

National Negro Business League.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Makes Lynching Unpopular

JUN 5 1942

We are not hopeful that the federal grand jury now sitting will apprehend the Sikeston lynchers, even though it has the aid of the department of justice. The resignation of the one Sikeston member of that jury is significant. It is still true that you cannot indict a community.

Theoretically we are all equal before the law. Actually justice holds the scales differently according to the individual. In this lynching, all Sikeston is of one mind, the white by choice and interest and the Negroes under compulsion.

JUN 5 - 1942

We wish some Negro would take the risk and tell this grand jury as much as was told the CALL representative who was in Sikeston a few hours after that awful orgy, but we do not expect that.

Naturally we would not have our people in Sikeston have to choose between the law and a living. But they do. As certainly as they tell what they know, they will feel the weight of their townsmen's disapproval. They will lose their jobs if they do not lose life.

Law observance and general betterment depend on the majority. It is the whites of Sikeston who set the pattern for their own and for Negroes' attitude toward government. Reprehensible as is the dominant opinion when it protects wrong, it is a source of too much good to be scrapped. It is the community conscience, which makes effective the various good habits it has.

We welcome the federal government into the investigation of this lynching. Lynchers have child minds. They take upon themselves the punishment of an individual charged with crime, not so much from desire to crush evil as to get an outlet for their own cussedness. Uncle Sam is their even change. They will think before they pick their next victim. Proving themselves innocent when they know they are guilty is not to be undertaken twice.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Wholesale Perjury

The Texarkana lynching in which the mob killed a seriously wounded Negro because he "resembled the accused," brings out clearly why Negroes protest the system so bitterly. No crime was proved, a procedure followed in court trials because it is experience that investigation is the only way to establish what happened and who did it.

There are no doubts of crime or guilt where Judge Lynch presides, because he hears only cases against Negroes and takes their guilt for granted. For him investigation is time wasted. Of that arbitrariness is born the chain gang, peonage, the refusal of Negroes of justice even in civil cases, and all the iniquities that pure meanness can contrive.

Measured by numbers killed, lynching is a negligible evil. But the spirit that it expresses defiles beyond tolerance. For whatever satisfaction lynchers get out of seeing Negroes suffer, they create conditions harmful to the community, including themselves. The Sikeston lynching which is being probed by the federal authorities, shows to what perjuries communities stoop once they abandon the way of the law.

whites, that exaggeration of the facts would have been offset. In the same manner the act of this crazy Negro slayer breaks into the news, but not the reason why he was free to kill.

The "Fight for Justice" which we are urging upon our people as their bounden duty is more than a sentimental affair. There are advantages to be gained. Take the killings that used to characterize the Negro population of Kansas City. A murder a week, with the slayers sure of no harsh penalty.

Not until the old thinking is discarded and Negroes come to be included whenever citizens are thought of can there be wholesomeness in our community life. This Negro slayer should have been kept in the Oklahoma asylum where his record showed he belonged. Those Negro sick should have been treated. Negro-slayers of Negroes should have been given capital punishment. The war, with its call for skilled workers is making us aware of the awful retribution that comes from having conditions in some parts of this country that leave Negroes incapable of carrying their share of the public load.

Looking back, it is a sorry picture. Let's be fired to look forward and make today and tomorrow worthy of

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Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

THE LYNCHING OF NEGROES HELPS HITLER

Nothing has helped Hitler and the Japs in their fight to destroy democracy more than the brutal lynching of two Negroes since the beginning of the mighty conflict in this country on December 7, to save democracy. One of the Negroes lynched was lynched in Sikeston, Mo., where 10,000 persons witnessed his burning on the Sabbath day on the school house yard.

Last Monday, Texas joined that league of mobbers when a dying Negro was taken from a hospital, tied behind an automobile speeding through the streets of the city, and hanged by the neck in a gin yard. The Negro was a suspect in an attempted rape case. **This lynching by seven or eight persons, took place at the very time when our government was giving seven saboteurs and German spies who had come to our shore, a fair trial under our laws despite their admitted intention of destroying our property and killing probably tens of thousands of our citizens, while this Negro, who was just a suspect of a crime, never had a chance to deny his guilt or to prove his innocence.** This mob did not realize the fact that they were lynching democracy; they were lynching the very cause for which millions of our soldiers are dying. That is, that every citizen have the right of a fair trial by a jury.

This mob was helping Hitler, who is murdering the Jews, and boasts that he will soon spread his terror to our land.

Our law enforcement agencies in Texas and in this nation should do everything in their power to bring to justice the guilty persons who committed this atrocious crime. Honest, liberty-loving citizens should not hesitate to speak out against this evil. They should forget that it was a Negro lynched and see the acts as a boost and encouragement to Hitler and the Japs to continue their cruelty upon human beings throughout the world. They must remember that our enemies are skilled propaganda agents. They take advantage of every opening given them. They are saying now that democracy is an empty phrase. Just look now how they lynch and burn Negroes in America, the arsenal of democracy! And in Asia; Africa; wherever they can plant the seed of doubt as to the sincerity of the United States and England, the agents of the Axis use lynching and the treatment of Negroes in America to prove that there is no democracy here; that democracy is only for those who can afford it, "The Strong."

The matter of lynching and fair treatment to citizens is of prime importance to America at war. **Lynching must go if democracy is to exist.** We feel that the only way it will be destroyed is by the guilty parties being brought to justice and punished according to the law. Under our democratic form of government it matters not how serious the crime an individual commits, he is entitled to a trial by jury. If a Negro is found guilty of any crime, he has less chance of escaping punishment that any other people for he seldom has finances or political influences to help him to evade justice.

THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRAST—

On the same day that several of the dailies and columnists were commenting upon the American system of justice, which could even give saboteurs and spies a fair trial, a mob was taking a Negro in Texarkana out of a hospital, dragging him through the street and hanging him, when he had not been even identified by the woman who claimed to have been assaulted by some unknown person at night. Here were eight saboteurs who had come to destroy our very fabric of existence itself, and we were going to great expense and to elaborate planning to give them a fair trial. There was a Negro, loyal to the country and symbolic of the loyalty of 13,000,000 Negroes, who have never produced a traitor. But he was snatched from a hospital on less than a just suspicion, and dragged to his death by American citizens.

This contrast ought to shame all of the leaders who stand for and teach the American principle of fairness and justice. It is this brutalizing of the rights of the minority, which makes India mistrust Britain; make the Malayans, the Burmese and the other minority groups refuse to have faith in our Allies, who lack always the courage to see to it that equal justice is meted out to the minority groups.

The accused man was not only in custody and available for trial, he had been made helpless by being shot in the stomach by one of the mobbists, and there was no excuse for dragging him out of the hospital and hanging him, except brutishness and a lawless disregard for justice. For the authorities to condone such a thing is more heart-sickening than the deed itself, if that is possible.

To see the meticulous care with which the Government exerts itself to keep from offending Nazi spies who seek to destroy the nation, and the wanton destruction of the life of a Negro without any justification, is enough to make the strongest heart among Negro leaders quail and lose step in the march toward racial solidarity.

LYNCHING IS EVIL—

Negroes were appalled at the lynching of Willie Vinson in Texarkana, not because they wanted him or anyone else to assault womanhood and go unscathed; but because in lynching Vinson, the mob struck down and ran over not only the safeguards of law and justice for the minority group, but of the majority group too. In a word, that mob lynched the rights of Negroes and covertly menaced the rights of whites.

When the police and merchants beat Roland Hayes and mistreated his wife and daughter, in that little town in Georgia, Negroes were stunned, because representatives of government had wantonly insulted a whole race of loyal Americans. Roland Hayes, Marian Anderson and Joe Louis, is the symbol of achievement of the race and prime exhibit to prove the fact that Negroes can be cultured and outstanding American citizens. For their dignity and their person to be so cheaply assaulted, sickens the heart of every black person in America.

On his last visit to Houston, this writer spent much time with Roland Hayes with whom he went to school. Hayes had just bought his farm in Georgia and was planning to improve it and was enthusiastic about the things he meant to do on the farm. It is easy to imagine that to him and his wife, those dreams have been spoiled by the corrosion of hatred and bitterness which has flocked upon them out of the clear skies, as it were.

Today, Negroes are fighting to defend America in every corner of the world. Those back home are giving every ounce of support to the war in defense of the things that all Americans love. But a tremor of fear runs through these loyal Americans, when they see these wrongs done with the approval of the so-called leading citizens and without any dare to speak against them and to condemn them.

Lynching is more of an evil than changing money in the temples, but the disciples of the master cowardly hold their peace and refuse to speak against the evil. Lynching is more brutal than adultery and stealing, but the disciples of the Master keep turning their heads away from this evil. Why are the better people of America afraid to rise up and abolish lynching and compel the mobs to respect the courts.

Lynching is evil. Are Negroes expected to be silent about the evil because the leaders of the dominant race lack the courage to condemn it? Or is it exacted of the hands of the preachers and leaders of the dominant race that they should condemn the evil? Too often attempts are made to put Negroes on the defensive for crying out against the wrongs against their group, and we are sorry to say that in some instances, Negroes accept this defensive position. But in our view, lynching is evil and should and will be condemned.

Negroes Stunned Over Lynching In Texarkana Tex.

"The Interme"

TEXARKANA, Texas—

The Negroes further would like to know whether the sheriff had made any attempt to have Miss Margaret Mullin, night supervisor at the Texarkana hospital, name or describe the man who took Vinson from the hospital basement, and why they had access to the basement at that hour of the night. If they went in a side door as was reported, why should the door have been unlocked at that hour; and if they came in the main door, why didn't someone see them? Also, how were the white papers able to give a block by block description of the route the man took on leaving the hospital to the time they arrived at the Liberty Gin?

Negroes Skeptical

The reported attempted assault took place at a trailer camp on Highway 82 between New Boston and Hooks about 20 Miles from Texarkana. According to the information received, the Havel Cafe where Vinson worked is near this trailer where Mrs. Talley and her baby were living while her husband worked at the Red River Ordnance Depot. The Negroes doubt that Vinson had anything to do with the reported attempted rape of the white woman. They don't believe that he would attempt such a thing since he was working in that vicinity and was fairly well known. Also, why would Vinson seek shelter in the place where he worked if he had been guilty of the attempted assault, and why were there no officers there trying to arrest Vinson instead of a group of white men? And why did Roberts, the truck driver, have a gun, and why would he have to shoot an unarmed Negro?

Other Negroes Threatened

Although the prominent Negroes of Texarkana deny that two of its most prominent leaders had left town over the weekend because of the tension, the "man on the street" Negro was quite sure that existing tension had had something to do with it. They had even heard some of the whites say that they were "going to get those two smart N------."

The officers of the town closed the business (Negro) and those churches holding meetings Monday night for what they termed "might be best for all concerned."

A prominent family reported that a car load of whites drove through one of the Negro sections Monday night and emptied their guns for what they believed to be an attempt to frighten them.

Several Negroes reported that they were afraid to go on the streets for fear of their lives. For weeks now they have been denied the right to purchase even .22 calibre bullets for hunting purposes. One man was seen coming out of a store that sold guns and ammunition by the State Liquor Control Board officer in that section and was severely shaken and questioned about his business in the store. This officer has caused a reign of terror among the Negroes in that section along with the sheriff's department.

It is reported that on week-ends and pay days, the officers have arrested the Negroes in wholesale numbers and charged them with everything from being drunk to vagrancy. The majority of those arrested are working people and it is said that they were neither drunk or could be accused of being. They added that the law enforcement officers had done little to help conditions between the two groups.

Protest Texarkana Lynching In Telegram To FDR, Dept Of Justice

"The Interme" Texas, Tex.

NEW YORK.—"The third lynching of an American Negro within two weeks is as much a setback to the cause of victory over fascism as a major naval or military loss," George Marshall, Chairman of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties declared today, in telegrams to President Roosevelt, Governor Coke R. Stevenson of Texas and the Department of Justice protesting the lynching of Willie Vinson in Texarkana, Texas, on Monday, July 13, 1942.

"We cannot [redacted] Hitler's lawlessness to continue to dominate the southern poll tax states," the wire said, "nor can we continue to allow the desocration within our own borders of the four freedoms to which we, as a people, have pledged our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."

"It is a gruesome paradox." Mr. Marshall continued, "that the state which produced one of the first great heroes of this war, Dorie Miller, son of a Negro sharecropper, is the state in which mob violence and tyranny have been allowed to run rampant to an extent that threatens the lives and morale not only of Negroes but of all Americans."

Calling upon the President to take immediate steps to guarantee the rights of Negroes to live without fear of lynching and to participate fully in the war against fascism, the Federation wire also urged an immediate investigation by the Department of Justice.

In an additional statement, released today the National Federation deciared:

"Th responsibility for the scandalous lynching in Texarkana, the other lynchings this year, and the legal lynching of Odell Waller, rests largely with the poll-tax members of the United States Congress and their allies who have stubbornly blocked favorable action on the Geyer-Pepper anti-poll tax bill and the Gavagan anti-lynch bill.

"The people of Texas want to help win the war. The rest of the people of the United Stats must help them do the job the victory requires by uniting behind the campaign for abolition of the poll tax and of lynching through the passage of the bills now in Congress.

"The poll tax and lynching are not sectional issues, or racial issues. They are national issues because they threaten national morale. It is not surprising that these two great threats to morale are combined in the state of the un-American Congressman, Martin Dies of Texas, whose activities in recent weeks have njured morale and aided the Axis as much as did the Texarkana lynching.

"Only last night, United States Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, speaking in Raleigh, N. C., declared that our nation is in "mortal danger" which can only be met by uniting all Americans, "white and Negro, rich and poor, Christian and non-Christian" behind the war.

"Presidential action and a Department of Justice investigation are needed, but the real solution requires immediate passage of the anti-lynch and anti-poll tax bills, stronger enforcement of the Executive Order against discrimination and a complete realization by all members of Congress and all state and local civil and police authorities that we need the help of the Negro people and of all other minority groups, if we are to win the war.

"Justice Black's program is one which our country must follow. It is the only way to assure speedy victory. Willie Vinson, lynched Monday in Texas, cannot be brought back to life, but his thirteen million fellow Negroes must immediately be guaranteed their life, their liberty and their right to fight against the Axis."

6862

37d(1)-1942
Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Highway Officer Says Sikeston Officials Did Nothing to Save Wright

FEB 13 1942 FEB 13 1942

No Local Policemen in Building To Guard Prisoner; State Highway Men Asked for Help, But in Vain

37d(1) South

By Staff Correspondent

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.—Governor Donnell's investigation of the lynching at Sikeston, Mo., on January 25 is bringing to light several startling bits of information. it was learned here this week. FEB 13 1942

The governor's order for a thorough probe of the burning to death of a human being by a mob of 300 white citizens of Missouri's southeastern "boot-heel" section has put "on the spot" officials whose duties are to preserve law and order and to protect prisoners in their custody.

M. Stanley Ginn, superintendent of the state highway patrol, has made his own investigation of the orgy and in so doing revealed that the local police officers of Sikeston not only were derelict in their duty by failing to protect Cleo Wright from the mob, THEY WERE NOT EVEN ON THE JOB.

There was not a single Sikeston police officer at the city jail when the mob formed outside. Wright was in the jail, unprotected by iron bars, with no police to guard him.

Ginn said that he interviewed Sergeant Melvin Dace and other state highway patrolmen who were on the scene. FEB 13 1942

PATROLMEN ASK FOR ASSISTANCE

Dace said that he and two other patrolmen held the mob out of the jail for more than an hour without assistance from either local Sikeston police or the sheriff.

At no time, Dace said, was the state patrol requested by Sikeston or Scott county "peace" officers to aid in the protection of Wright although the mob stormed outside the building for two hours before the lynching.

Dace said that the state patrol repeatedly requested assistance in vain from the local officers.

Dace said that he retired at 4 a. m. Sunday after physicians had told him that Wright, shot four times by a Sikeston policeman, had only a slight chance to live. At 9:30 a. m. he was awakened, he said, by a routine call from the Poplar Bluff patrol headquarters. FEB 13 1942

He said he then drove into Sikeston and found a large crowd gathered in front of the city hall. The jail where Wright had been placed is in the rear of the city hall.

Dace said that he walked into the building and found more men using a crowbar trying to pry open the plain wooden door leading to the room where Wright lay in a dying condition. Dace said he ordered the men to leave and they went outside. FEB 13 1942

DACE LEAVES DOOR TO CALL FOR HELP

NO CITY OFFICERS WERE IN THE BUILDING, Dace said. Dace said he had no key to the room where Wright lay and could not remove the prisoner to a safer place. Wright had been placed in a room with an ordinary wooden door without iron bars for protection.

The city officers said they did not place Wright in the cell-block of the jail, which is protected by iron bars, because there are no cots there and Wright wouldn't have been "comfortable."

Sergeant Dace said that the front doors of the city hall were not locked. There were no bars to hold the doors and the only way the officers had to block the entrance was with their bodies.

SOUTHERN

Dace said. FEB 13 1942

Dace said that he was forced to leave the door to the room where Wright was unguarded while he made telephone calls to the sheriff's office in Benton, the county seat; troop headquarters at Poplar Bluff and to local police men and local American Legion auxiliary police.

PROSECUTOR BOOED BY THE MOB FEB 13 1942

Dace said that after he and two other patrolmen had held off the mob for more than an hour, then Prosecutor David E. Blanton arrived. He attempted to make a speech to quiet the mob, Dace said, but the crowd booed and then rushed the doors. The last rush carried them through and pushed the patrolmen back against the walls inside the city hall.

The mob, Dace said, broke down the door leading to Wright and dragged the dying man out, dragged him through the Negro section of the city and burned his body after soaking it with gasoline. FEB 13 1942

Dace said that after the mob left the city hall, he and the other patrolmen rushed to the Negro section in patrol cars by a different route to warn groups of Negroes of "possible violence" and "to stay inside their homes."

Wright was lynched after he had been accused of stabbing Mrs. Dillard Sturgeon and later of stabbing Officer Hess Perrigan who then shot Wright four times.

Wright was taken to the hospital for superficial treatment, was then removed to his home and shortly before 8 a. m. Sunday (while the mob was gathering) he was returned to the city hall-jail where no city policemen were on hand to guard him.

Developments In Lynch Probe

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.—Governor Donnell held a two-hour conference Monday with David E. Blanton, prosecuting attorney of Scott county and Attorney General Roy McKittrick on the Sikeston lynching.

After the conference, Gov. Donnell announced that Blanton is considering accepting the governor's offer of state aid in investigating the lynching.

The governor said that he, Blanton and McKittrick had discussed "the entire situation" and that Blanton would issue a full statement soon. FEB 13 1942

ST. LOUIS. — N. A. A. C. P. branches all over the state have been holding mass meetings and adopting resolutions protesting the horrible lynching and calling upon Governor Donnell to push his investigation vigorously.

SIKESTON, Mo. — Prosecutor David E. Blanton has asked that a grand jury be called to investigate the lynching of Cleo Wright here Sunday, January 25. Judge C. F. McDowell of Charleston of the Scott county circuit court said that he will consider the request at the next term of court at Benton the first Monday in March.

Reports are circulating that the identity of eight of 10 participants in the lynching is known.

"At first," said Blanton, "our investigation was blocked by a veil of silence, but after a few days of sober reflection the better element came forward to give us names of alleged mob leaders and other invaluable information."

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

CONTINUE THE FIGHT ON LYNCHING

FEB 13 1942 FEB 13 1942

In our zeal to keep up the fight against lynching we think we are doing a big job in our national defense because whether everybody agrees with us or not, we do know that lynching and other impositions which are forced upon the Negroes in this country are affecting not only the black people of America but also darker races all over the world. If the American people can lay down their prejudices long enough to pass an anti-lynching bill as a gesture to break up the barbaric practice of lynching and burning of human beings in the broad open daylight in America, such an act will go a long way toward making this country a real democracy if the thing about which our President, senators and statesmen are wont to do so much talking. In this effort we are calling all fair-minded and liberal, red-blooded Americans to join us. The fight is yours, as well as ours. FEB 13 1942

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

SIKESTON, MISSOURI, LYNCH TOWN, STRONGLY ANTI-NEGRO

Several Negroes Jailed For Same Charge, and Given From Two to Five Years

FEB 7 -1942 FEB 7 -1942

By ROBERT S. COBB

SIKESTON, Mo.—(ANP)—The year's first recorded lynching, that of Cleo Wright here a week ago Sunday, is the result of anti-Negro feeling extending over a period of years.

During the administration of former Gov. Starks, there developed the sharecroppers' problem which was eventually carried to President Roosevelt. This was the exodus from cotton plantations and the encampment on state highways which was finally broken up by state troopers. Sikeston was the key city in this demonstration.

The housing situation here has also strained race relations. Many Negroes have better homes than do the poorer whites in this section, largely through obtaining government loans. As a lawyer, I have personally examined the records and consulted prisoners who have been sent to state prisons upon the slightest provocation and most of them are beneficiaries of federal loans.

One of those prisoners is a minister of the gospel who made his living barbecuing meat. He was convicted on charges of barbecuing a stolen hog, although he had no idea the hog had been obtained in that manner—if such actually was the case. His sentence was two years. Five other persons were imprisoned for the same alleged crime and all received terms of from two to five years. FEB 7 -1942

A wife of one of these prisoners told me she has no funds and may lose her property. Her husband, who obtained a government loan for his home, cannot now collect the money due him from federal officials, he says, because of his incarceration. This situation will end in the ejection of the family from the government property. Incidentally, all of the prisoners in this hog case have received federal loans on property. FEB 7 -1942

The real underlying cause for the linching was that of jealousy. This may lead to the outbreak of additional violence unless some action is taken by Gov. Donnel or President Roosevelt.

Mr. Arthur Stern, formerly a lecturer at the American Artists School, questioned some of the selections made by Dr. Locke and asked why several unusually popular paintings at the New York World's Fair show had not been included in The Negro in Art.

The audience, which included a large share of Negro and white artists as well as patrons from the downtown galleries, entered into the lively discussion. This was the second in the current season's "Evenings with Negro Authors" which is sponsored and arranged by the Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature of the New York Public Library. As a preliminary, the new Harlem Library Branch Librarian, Mrs. Mary B. Quam, was presented by Dr. L. D. Reddick. Dr. Reddick pointed out that Mrs. Quam's grand uncle, captain Daniel Matson, had led a Negro regiment in the American Civil War.

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

"REMEMBER SIKESTON"

FEB 20 1942

"The conscience of the civilized world was shocked December 7, 1941, when the Japanese made a treacherous attack at Pearl Harbor. So deep seated is the desire of Americans for vengeance growing out of the unprovoked assault that the phrase 'Remember Pearl Harbor' has swept the country. All Americans, black and white alike, are giving their all to protect and preserve democracy in this land of ours." ....John A. Davis.

The slogan, "Remember Pearl Harbor" is said in the vein of revenge. Our slogan "Remember Sikeston" is said in the name of justice and fair play. It is said in the interest of the Constitution of the United States which is supposed to be broad enough to protect every American in his rights as a citizen. FEB 20 1942

"Remember Sikeston" because the brutal lynching-burning of Cleo Wright inflicted a wound in our consciousness; a bleeding wound which must not be closed until the perpetrators of this dastardly crime are punished in accordance with the laws of the land. The pride of every true and red-booded Missourian was wounded on Sunday, January 25, when the news flashed to all the world telling about what happened in Sikeston. Yes, we are calling upon the President of the United States, the senators and representatives which make up the Congress of the United States, the governors and the law-making bodies of the several states, as well as the law enforcement officers of these states, to "Remember Sikeston." We are especially directing the attention of the ministers of the gospel to this heinous crime. We are calling upon them to be relentless in their denunciation of such barbarity right here in a so-called "Christian America," lest the so-called heathens of other lands denounce us as the biggest set of hypocrites that the world has ever seen. Therefore, let the voice of the pulpit thunder against these injustices until the conscience of the people of America are awakened to the dangers which are undermining the very foundation of this republic.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

CIVIL LIBERTIES DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATES SIKESTON MOBBING

FEB 21 1942 FEB 21 1942

Robson R. Reynolds, Grand Director, Makes Trip, Incognito, to Scene

FEB 21 1942

ST. LOUIS.—(ANP)—Hobson R. Reynolds, grand director of civil liberties, I. B. P. O. E. W., conducted his own investigation last week into the lynching at Sikeston last Jan. 25. Reynolds, whose appearance in no way reflects his racial identity, quietly entered the sleepy little southern town located in Missouri's "boot heel" cotton section, secured quarters and a quietly proceeded to gather evidence and facts from the townspeople. FEB 21 1942

When asked how long he remained in Sikeston, Reynold stated, "I was there long enough to discover what I wanted to know —that the real cause behind Cleo Wright's lynch-burning was the determination of a prejudice minority to intimidate and scare our people so that their efforts at securing their civil liberties and economic freedom guaranteed by the constitution and laws of the land would be discouraged, and in order to forever frighten them out of their natural yearnings to stand forth fearlessly as American citizens."

As to his racial identity being discovered by the whites, Reynolds repoined, "Nobody asked me what I was, and I certainly didn't go around with any sign on my back. They will find out soon enough though, and most likely to their own embarrassed surprise and consternation."

Mr. Reynolds conferred officially with civil liberties department of Greater St. Louis Lodge No. 1012 whose four co-directors, Attys. David M. Grant, George L. Vaughn, John A. Davis, and Sidney R. Redmond, are outstanding members of the Missouri bar. Attys. Grant, Vaughn and Redmond, hold official positions on the staffs of the circuit, attorney general and city counselor respectively. At this conference, also attended by A. Oliver Thornton, exalted ruler, and Dr. L. B. Howell, medical director, the question of presenting the facts uncovered at Sikeston to the department of justice at Washington was discussed. FEB 21 1942

While in St. Louis, Mr. Reynolds also joined in conferences with officials of the NAACP and along wit Dr. G. B. Key, grand district deputy, pledged the cooperation of Elkdom through out greater St. Louis in supporting a silent parade to be held in that city Feb. 22 in protest of the Sikeston lynching.

37d(1)

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

6875

NEGRO PRESS SOUTHERN

Two Lynchings—Too Many

FEB 4 1941

GEORGIA COMES to the end of the year with at least two lynchings to her "credit." That shows that some still claim a right to carry on the ugly performance in the light of threatening Federal intervention through some such anti-lynching bill.

The lynchees, one colored and one white, somewhat typifies what Dr. Booker Washington often said—"When men begin by lynching black men they will wind up lynching white men." The white man was Ike Gaston of flogging fame, who was lynched by local regulators who saw fit to take the law into their own hands. The colored man, Allan Callaway, was taken in the usual style and put to death 'at hands unknown by this jury."

These figures, while far too many, show that lynching is on the decline. But as long as one single person is lynched, the law is violated and the good offices of the State are menaced.

FEB 4 1941

Dr. Monroe N. Work for years has kept a record at the Tuskegee Institute, meant to mirror all lynchings and publish them to the extent of discouraging the evil. Few undertakings have made a more laudable contribution than Dr. Work's effort. While he has retired from the work, it goes steadily on and the figures kept there are regarded as national standards.

The colored race and the friends of legislation curbing lynching in general have labored in season and out for Federal legislation for fighting lynching. These efforts have met with steady opposition principally from legislators who reside within the area where most of our lynchings occur. All sorts of racial thrusts and filibusters have been resorted to stay off votes on the several bills offered. While the House passes the bills, the Senate has served as a stop gap and there our anti-lynching legislation is confined to its grave.

FEB 4 1941

The work to curb lynching through Federal action will keep its pace. There will be no let-up until the states themselves cease countenancing the evil.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

WALTER CHIVERS SAYS:

JAN 19 1941

JAN 18 1941

Some Remarks About Lynching

THE SMALL NUMBER of lynchings reported for 1940 appear encouraging on the surface. As a matter of fact the reports may not mean any more than that these were all of the mob deaths unquestionably established as facts. The writer of the difficulties encountered in verifying lynchings and also the sensitiveness of states about having lynchings recorded as having happened within their borders because as associate research director for the Southern Committee for the study of lynching, he personally investigated about forty different lynchings.



At that time he noted, with surprise how severely states resisted having lynchings charged against them and at the same time certain techniques that were being developed for the purpose of preventing the stigma of the word "lynch" from being attached to states and local communities. The total number of lynchings had in all probability been much higher than the reports revealed because of the fear of Negroes in the remote black belt communities to talk and because of the almost complete absence of Negro witnesses to lynchings.

A situation is recalled where the community claimed that a Negro being pursued by a mob for allegedly having committed a heinous crime committed suicide when he saw the mob coming. The posse was admittedly heavily armed but disclaimed any primary intention of killing the Negro. There were no Negro witnesses—if there had been they could have probably been too frightened to deny the story told by the authorities even if there had been justification for so doing.

SWORE IN MOB

Another technique noted was that used by certain sheriffs. They would deputize the mob. Then if the accused Negro tried to outdistance his pursuers he could be forcibly stopped. If incidentally or accidentally he was killed it would be changed to resisting officers of the law. Still another technique was for the legal authorities to promise the mob that the accused would be given a speedy trial and summarily dealt with if they would desist from lynching him.

This has been spoken of as "legal lynching"— anyway the state is saved from the stigma of having its name on the "Lynching Record". It is not claimed that these types of advoidance are still being practiced, however, the possibility is worth investigating before it is definitely admitted that lynchings are on the decrease.

OFTEN SHOW DELIBERATION

Lynchings are not always the results of hysteria or sudden outbursts of emotion due to the shock of a particular crime. They often show signs of considerable deliberation. For instance in one community the mob assembled in a public park for several successive nights while the leader begged one hundred people to cross a line signifying them willingness to become parties to the proposed lynching. The argument being that a community would not attempt to persecute that many of its citizens. The hundred crossed the line and the lynching was staged.

In another settlement an officer who had been holding off a mob for several hours received an urgent summons to another duty. Before leaving he struck a "gentlemen's" agreement with the crowd that they would not act until his return at about eight a. m.

The crowd scattered singly and in small groups. The two cafes were filled throughout the night with discussion groups. At the specified time the officer was informed of their decision to proceed with the lynching because the state law did not provide the death pen-

alty for the alleged crime. Shortly afterwards the man was lynched. In each of these cases there was considerable time for reflection, deliberation and prevention of the lynching. It is true that the reasoning of the crowds was from an emotional foundation but it is also true that it was an old foundation based on the Community's concept of a "Negro being".

NO AFTER REGRETS

The writer has never believed that the members of mobs or their sympathizers feel any pangs of conscience for participating in lynchings. The reason for this conclusion is the belief that the lynch penalty has been established in the traditions of the communities for such a long time until it is accepted as the right way to control Negroes. There have been expressions to the effect that an occasional lynching is needed to keep Negroes in "their places".

The real cause for most lynchings is that the Negro has gotten out of "his place". The definition of his place is as varied as the communities scattered throughout the southern and border states. A community that will brag about its degree of civilization which will not permit the lynching of a Negro for certain major crimes might lynch him for "sassying" a white man.

This short statement is made as a warning against a growing optimism about the decrease of lynching which the writer senses but does not believe justified.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Race Selectees In Florida Lynch Town All Volunteers

NORFOLK—Quincy, Florida, scene of one of the most bestial lynchings in the nation's history just four weeks ago, has supplied the United States Army with eight different contingents of colored selectees, all of whom were volunteers, it was revealed here Sunday.

The startling statement was made by Major Campbell C. Johnson of Washington, D. C., executive assistant to the Director of Selective Service, who spoke here on a program at the First Baptist Church sponsored by the committee of management of the Hunton Branch YMCA.

Passing through Quincy on official business, Major Johnson said he arrived in the town just as a celebration was in progress in honor of a group of 24 colored draftees who were on their way to be inducted into the Army. Inquiry of local draft officials revealed that that particular contingent was the eighth such colored group to leave Quincy, all of whom had been volunteers, he said he was told.

Three days after the incident a 22-year-old colored youth who had been left for dead after being shot eight times by mobsters, was taken from an ambulance enroute to Tallahassee, Florida, hanged to a tree, and then shot to death.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

Glowing Flames

By REV. L. V. BOLTON

Streamline Lynching

(The views and opinions expressed in this column are the writer's and do not necessarily reflect those of this paper.)

* * *

These are days in which most every thing is streamlined. We have streamlined trains, automobiles and streamline this and streamline that, but the streamline of all streamlines is the recent touch given lynchism and mobism in Texas and the U. S.

Lynching was streamlined to the last point in Conroe, June 10, 1941, while Bob White was on trial for an alleged committed rape in 1939, near Livingston. You see, Bob White had been tried several times before, but not one time has the evidence in the case been sufficient to satisfy the minds of all honest men that Bob White was guilty. However, when it comes to those men who are ever ready to take the law into their own hands and do as they please in Texas, every Negro brought into court on a charge of rape is guilty, regardless to the facts and the accusing woman be white.

On the day of the trial, while a jury was being selected to hear the evidence in the case, and at the time when the court was in the act of taking a recess, W. S. Cochran, (white husband of the allegedly raped woman, took the law into his hands and made the acts of Hitler, in Germany, look like a dime's worth of dog meat, when he went tipping up behind Bob White and while holding a big black pistol, fired one shot into the head of Bob White, killing him instantly.

The Hall of Justice Becomes The Hall of Injustice

When Bob White was taken from the death row and ushered into the court room on June 10th, and given a seat in the defendant's chair in that court room, he did so on the feeling that he was going to be protected by a government for which thousands of Negroes have poured out their blood for the protection and perpetuation of the so-called American way of life. Bob White was not afraid to take his seat, because, he thought he was in the Hall of Justice. But Bob White was laboring under a sad delusion. Instead of being in the Hall of Justice, he was actually in the Hall of Death and Hell. Is it true that there are places and times where and when there is no justice for black men and women. Conroe, Montgomery county, Texas, has certainly held out to be one of those places.

Conroe, Texas

This is a little town on Highway 75, between Houston and Huntsville. It is the main town and county site of Montgomery county. It has in it some very fine white people, but not enough to prevent it from being a city and county of raw savagery and gross barbarity. Negroes driving through that county need to be very careful less they be arrested and charged with speeding 60 miles per hour when they are driving only 40 miles per hour. When once arrested and carried before the courts in that county, if you are a Negro you will have a hard time proving that you were not speeding, because a Negro's word is not recognized. You see, that county out Hitler's Hitler. There is democracy in that town and county, but it is one-eyed and can see only those whose faces are white. It is a pity that Conroe cannot be moved to Germany, because the cruelty of that town dealt Negroes is ranker than anything Hitler ever dreamed of.

The Joe Winters' Case

There are those who recall when Joe Winters was burned in Conroe. He was taken out of jail and carried across the streets and up into a doctor's office where his tongue was cut out at the root and he was brought down and shot with a thirty-thirty rifle, a hole punched through his jaw and a rusty chain thrust through the hole and he was dragged out to an iron post and tied. Hundreds of blood-thirsty mobbists piled cord wood upon his body and afterwards soaked the whole pile, man and wood, with gasoline and it is reported that a German shoe maker sturck the match that lighted the death fire, after which men, women and children, yea, the barbarious crowd stood back and watched the brains of the burning Negro's body softened and run from his skull like tar from a heated keg.

Bob White Without A Chance

Bob White died without having a chance to prove his guilt or innocence. He was shot as though he was a dog running wild in the jungles of Africa. He was shot while seated in a chair in a building that is supposed to symbolize justice and equality before the law. He was shot while the high sheriff and all his deputies were absent from the court room. He was shot by a man who got up out of his seat in the rear and walked to the front where Bob White was sitting. Conroe and her count offcials should be required to explain why this strange set up; why was the sheriff and his deputies absent? Why had everybody moved away from around or near Bob White?

Time For Action

Texas Negroes are more wrought up over this undemocratic deed than a Mexican bull before a red blanket. But, this is no time for Negroes to curse and question the functions of a very lame so-called democracy. It is a time when every Negro in Texas should send a letter of protest to the governor of the state and to the president of the nation and other national and state leaders demanding that the case of Bob White be given justice according to the law and that other citizens of the race might be protected according to the constitution of these United States. It is time for action. Shall we keep silent on this matter? I Say, a thousand times, No!—Selah.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Exhibit from Person

From News and Observer

Person County, acting through a duly constituted grand jury of its citizens, has shown the way to the rest of the State in dealing with mob violence.

The indictment of 10 members of a mob which attempted to lynch a Negro last August, and in the course of the attempt inflicted considerable property damage, is a forward step, and a long step forward. Prevention of lynchings is not enough. Those who attempt to take the law into their own hands must be made to feel the force of the law they seek to flout. Of course, the indictment of ten members of the mob does not complete the job to be done in Person County.

Indictments mean little if not followed by conviction. And all members of the mob, not merely 10 of them, should be brought to trial. It is also true that the investigation which made these indictments possible was not made by Person County officials but by the State Bureau of Investigation acting under orders from Governor Broughton.

But the indictments were returned by a Person County grand jury, and in returning them the grand jury did its full duty. Further proceedings now become the duty of other officials who presumably will also do their duty.

Judge Henry A. Grady has requested the Governor to call a special term of the court for the trial of these cases, and Governor Broughton has indicated he will do so. Prompt action may be expected in this case, which, in the effect it will have upon law enforcement in North Carolina for years to come, will be one of the most important in the history of the State.

Perhaps it is natural that the connection of Judge Grady with the Ku Klux Klan, which was terminated many years ago, should be recalled in connection with the present case. It would be most unfortunate if this or any other smoke screen should be used successfully to becloud the present issue. The issue now is not the activity of Judge Grady or any other person in the past.

The sole issue is the effort of a mob to flout the law of the State last August and the present duty of the State to vindicate its laws. Judge Grady's actions in the present case are worthy of high praise, as are those of Governor Broughton, the SBI, the solicitor of the district, the sheriff and the grand jury.

Preservation of law and order is far more important than the fate of any individual whoever he may be. Those who attempt to take the law into their own hands must be taught that the law is supreme.

If that lesson is taught effectively in the present Person County case, North Carolina will not only maintain its splendid record of recent years in respect to lynchings, but attempted lynchings as well as actual lynchings will probably became a thing of the past.

Person County, through the action of a grand jury, has shown the way. It is now in order for Person County to finish the job

Eighteen Named on Race Relations Honor Roll— Six Are White

Negro history week celebrates current history as well as past history of the progress and achievements of Negro Americans. An annual feature of History Week is the poll to determine what citizens, organizations, or institutions have distinguished themselves in terms of merit and social value by their contributions to the improvement of race relations and the advancement of humanity. The poll is conducted by Dr. L. D. Reddick, curator of the Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature, New York Public Library.

For 1941, Dr. Reddick cites eighteen recipients of this recognition.

NEGROES

Joe Louis, for ability, sportsmanship, generosity, and patriotism.

A. Clayton Powell, Jr., for his election to the New York City Council.

Dean Dixon, the first Negro to conduct the NBC Symphony Orchestra and the Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra of New York.

A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, who organized the "March to Washington" campaign for equality of job opportunities for Negroes in the defense industry.

Dr. E. E. Just, of Howard University, whose death on October 27, 1941, brought to a close the career of a distinguished biologist.

Ollie Stewart, of the *Afro American* newspaper for his articles revealing the actual conditions of life for the Negro soldier in the army training camps.

Dr. Ambrose Caliver, of the U. S. Office of Education, for conceiving and supervising the series of radio programs, "Freedom's People," which depicts the role of the Negro in the building of America.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for leading the general fight for Negro civic rights and winning notable court victories in the equalization of Negro teachers' salaries in the public school systems of the Southern states.

Dr. Charles S. Johnson, director of the department of social science of Fisk University, for his books and scientific papers which attained new heights of scholarship and candor.

"Wings Over Jordan," the choral and religious-educational broadcast, under the direction of the Rev. Glenn T. Settle.

Richard Wright for his book, "*12 Million Black Voices,*" his Broadway play, "Native Son" (starring Canada Lee), and his song (in collaboration with Paul Robeson and Count Basie), "King Joe," a tribute to Joe Louis.

The Unnamed Negro Messman of the U. S. S. Arizona who, during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, manned an anti-aircraft gun and fought the enemy until his ammunition was exhausted.

WHITE

PM, New York newspaper, for conspicuously fair treatment of the Negro in its news, editorials, and pictures.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, who has repeatedly used the weight of her position to speak and work for social justice for all Americans, Negroes included.

Mark Ethridge, of Louisville, who, as chairman of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice, has proved again that a "Southern gentleman" can make an "all-out" fight for job opportunities for Americans, irrespective of creed, color, or national origin.

Pearl S. Buck, for her service to the National Urban League and for her splendid letter to the New York Times, November 15, 1941, on the Harlem crime news stories.

Carl Van Vechten for his encouragement to young Negro writers and for establishing at Yale University the James Weldon Johnson collection of Negro literature.

The Julius Rosenwald Fund, under the direction of Edwin R. Embree, author of "*Brown America,*" for aid to education in Georgia—despite adversity.

Dr. Malcolm MacLean, president of Hampton Institute, has been made chairman of the Fair Employment Practice Committee, succeeding Mark Ethridge, of the Louisville Courier-Journal.

Methodist Women Frown on Race Issue in Politics

"Realizing that we are employers of labor, we recommend:

"That we work to improve the hours, wages, and working conditions in domestic service, and that definite studies be made by local societies, using as a guide 'What are Real Wages in Domestic Service' and 'What Price Domestic Service,' prepared by the Commission on Interracial Cooperation."

When the Methodist women of the Southeastern Jurisdiction, meeting in Nashville in January, passed this resolution, they achieved a high point of honesty not too frequent in these confused times. "Remove the beam from our own eyes" they said in effect.

Having assumed their share of responsibility for economic discrimination, they were prepared to step into "Man's World" and vote for "the elimination of the White Primary and of the poll tax as a qualification for voting." Particularly did they sense their "obligations as Christian citizens" to "educate against the injection of race as an issue in political campaigns" and "to use all their powers against this practice."

The Methodist women of the South in these actions show that they have come to a new interpretation of the fruits by which Christians will be known.

Lynching Number One, 1942 Women Protest—Editor Gloats

By Associated Press — Sikeston, Mo., January 25.—A critically wounded Negro, suspected of the attempted assault of a woman, was taken from the City Jail today by a mob of more than 300, which dragged him through the Negro district and then set the body afire.

January 29:

Methodist women of the Southeastern Jurisdiction, depressed by the lynching, wrote Governor Forrest C. Donnell expressing their satisfaction that an investigating committee had been appointed by him. "We join in your sorrow over the tragedy of the lynching," the women declared. The letter was signed by Mrs. E. L. Hillman, Rocky Mount, North Carolina, President; Mrs. E. Roy Jones, Columbia, South Carolina, Secretary; and Mrs. M. E. Tilly, Atlanta, Georgia, Secretary of Christian Social Relations.

January 30:

In Louisville, Kentucky, the home of Mrs. Attwood Martin, Chairman of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, the Executive Committee of the Kentucky Council called a special meeting to consider the situation. Mrs. R. M. Pegram, Chairman, and Mrs. Martin, were instructed to wire Governor Donnell that they shared with him "the shame of the disgraceful and diabolical lynching at Sikeston. Lynching is an indefensible crime at all times but now that our country is fighting to defend and preserve democratic principles, it is peculiarly atrocious. We appreciate your orders that all the lynchers be apprehended and punished. We hope your authority will prevail.

"Loyal American citizens everywhere are watching Missouri to see whether or not Sikeston lynchers will be punished. This is the first lynching since democracy was attacked at Pearl Harbor, and Missouri's first since 1933."

January 30:

Sikeston Standard — The P. C. Editor says:

"We are constituted a bit different from some folks. We have nothing but hot blood flowing through our veins" . . . "some papers (say) that the lynching in Sikeston was a blot on the State of Missouri and that Sikeston should hang her head in shame. That may be, but we haven't seen any heads hanging in shame here and probably won't."

While some other aircraft firms are balking at employing Negroes, AGA Aviation Corporation of Pennsylvania has as one of its top engineers Douglas Watson, a young Negro mechanical genius. President of the company is Virgil H. Frazier, born and reared in Alabama. — *Merry-Go-Round, Journal, Atlanta, Georgia.*

Albert A. Briggs, Negro, former staff sergeant, was commissioned second lieutenant at Fort Sill this month.

NEWS CLIPPINGS FILE

File 3721

The PEOPLE'S



Mississippi Secedes From the Union

'Peoples Voices
New York, N.Y.

THE HOUR has arrived for Mississippi to secede from the Union. That state can no longer be considered a part of THE UNITED States of America. Mississippi has turned her back on everything that Democracy should stand for. She has given justice the double-cross, knifed liberty in the back and thumbed her nose at Christianity. The triple lynching horror of the past few days is enough to turn the stomachs of every decent man in the world.

OCT 2 4 1942

Mississippi from now on must be listed with the Axis Powers. War should immediately be declared on that state. Federal troops should be sent in to put down the armed insurrection. Mississippi is now conducting an open war against the United Nations. She has struck with force and bloodshed and death has been the result. Reason, logic, and legislation are of no avail now. Mississippi can only be made a supporter of the United Nations through the use of force.

The Governor of Mississippi, Paul Johnson, is to be especially commended on his forthright stand for his immediate action and his stated intention "to prosecute to the fullest the lynchers." This means the political extermination of Paul Johnson from now on in Mississippi. The levee cracker can't stand a governor who has any semblance of humanitarian principles left in his being. When you have been defeated, Paul Johnson, come on up north and join the ranks of the "new White man" that we "new Negroes" are making.

There are 2,183,276 residents in the State of Mississippi. Forty-five percent of this number, by "count" are Negroes. On the other hand we know that at least 65% of the state is composed of Negroes. It would be a sorry day if a race war broke out in the State of Mississippi. Yet this seems to be what that state is asking for. The barbarians of Mississippi have lynched children. They are attempting now to get five more Negroes out of jail and lynch them. This is an open intimidation of the Negro people of Mississippi. If the Negro people of Mississippi resist this with force there can be no one to blame but the half-wit crackers themselves. There is but so much that a people can stand and Negro people have stood just about enough in the State of Mississippi.

OCT 2 4 1942

What kind of a morale is to be expected from the 30,000 Negro troops in the United States armed forces who hail from Mississippi?

It can be delayed no longer. American Fascism must go. The south must not be coddled. Martial law must be declared in Mississippi. Federal troops must move in. If it means another Civil War, then let's have it and get it over with so that we can attend to the business of dissolving the corporation of hitler and company.

From now on Mississippi is an Axis Power!

"We Cannot Be Bought"—EDITORIAL POLICY OF THE PEOPLE'S VOICE—"We Will Not Be Sold."

WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT,

F D Asked to Take Stand on Lynching

FEB 7 - 1942

Missouri Mob Gives Japs and Nazis a Chance to Laugh at U. S. Democracy.

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—To support its plan for action in the Sikeston, Mo., lynching, the local branch of the NAACP will hold a State-wide mass meeting of all Missouri branches here Sunday, February 8. FEB 7 - 1942

Gov. Forrest C. Donnell of Missouri has ordered an immediate investigation.

Asks Anti-Lynch Law

A request for immediate legislation giving authority to the Federal Government to proceed against lynchers and lynching was wired to President Roosevelt by the NAACP, Monday, January 26.

The NAACP said that the lynching of Cleo Wright during the church hour Sunday is the most crushing blow to colored people which could top repeated rebuffs, segregation and discrimination suffered by them in the war effort." FEB 7 - 1942

"We are certain," the telegram continued, "that Japanese propagandists are already citing this lynching as evidence of what colored races of the Far East would suffer if the democracies win, precisely as they have used the brutal attack on colored soldiers at Alexandria, La., to the same purpose."

Urge Decisive Action

The wire to the President said that positive affirmative action is imperative, and requested the enactment of anti-lynching legislation. FEB 7 - 1942

"Decisive action by you and the Congress will hearten Americans of all races through assurance to them that the democracy ousy. This, it is pointed out, may lead to the outbreak of additional violence unless some action is taken by Governor Donnell or President Roosevelt.

we are asked to preserve applies within as well as outside the United States."

Comfort to Nazis

Newspaper editorials reflected the public's indignation over the burning of 30-year-old Cleo Wright by a mob of 7500 people.

The New York Times editorial stated that the community of Sikeston had earned "an unholy notoriety" and had "disgraced itself and the old, hideous crime of mob murder had another advertisement."

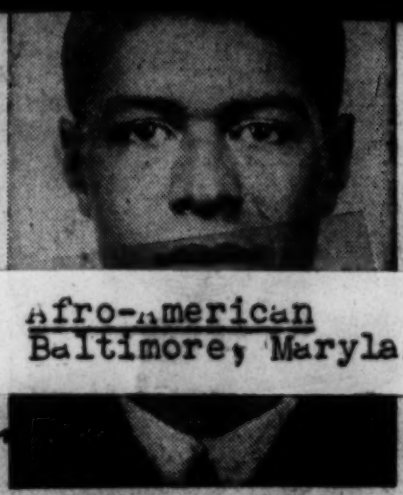
"There are few happenings in the United States that afford more comfort to the Nazis than evidences of lawlessnes. Lynchings are their prize exhibit in proof of the alleged hypocrisy of the free societies," the editorial said. FEB 7 - 1942

Good Enemy Propaganda

The Syracuse, N.Y., Post Standard said in part:

"The press of Germany and Japan received a story from the United States yesterday which probably was given great prominence in every anti-American newspaper around the globe.

"Not only is the event a disgraceful blot on the history of Missouri, but it also furnishes propaganda agencies of enemy countries with exactly the kind of news they are seeking to blacken the reputation of the United States as a nation of freedom and equality."



Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

CLEO WRIGHT

National Lawyers Guild Demands Action Against Lynching an[illegible]

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Score Failure of Coroner's Juries And Grand Juries to Indict Members Of Mobs; Hit Attacks on Soldiers

NEW YORK, N. Y.—At a meeting this week of the executive board of the National Lawyers guild of which Robert Walker Kenny of California is president, the filing of a brief as friend of the court was authorized in the government's suit against the Associated Press.

In a resolution adopted by the board the guild declared that "The contention of the Associated Press that the Government anti-trust suit against the press is a violation of freedom of the press is without foundation."

The executive board will appoint a special committee to study and report on the general question of freedom of the press and the dissemination of news in war time.

Condemnation of the department of justice was formulated in a report to the board by William Hastie, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War and Thurgood Marshall, Special Counsel of the N. A.A.C.P.

Sharply criticizing the manner in which Special U. S. attorneys appointed by the department of justice have presented evidence in lynching cases the report said:

"In the states with the worst lynching records, criminal prosecutions of the members of the mob never go further than a perfunctory investigation by either a coroner's jury or by a grand jury, ending with the decision that a person lynched 'came to his death at the hands of parties unknown.'

"During the past year the U. S. department of justice for the first time has been investigating several of the lynchings. The lynching at Sikeston, Mo., Jan. 25, 1942, was investigated by the United States department of justice and presented to the U. S Grand Jury, which refused to indict either the members of the mob or the state officials involved.

"Due credit should be given to the present United States department of justice for this much. It is quite evident that more vigorous action must be taken by the members of the department of justice presenting these cases to the grand jury.

"The report of the grand jury on the Sikeston lynching includes a statement that begins with a rehearsal of evidence presented to it of the crime alleged to have been committed by the victim of the mob and then proceeds to find the victim guilty of the crime for which he was charged by stating that 'in this instance a brutal criminal was denied due process.'

"This was of course beyond the scope of the grand jury investigation and was unnecessary, uncalled for and indeed is contrary to the facts revealed by other investigations."

The report further cited instances of violence against Negroes in uniform by civilian and state officials.

"An attack on a Negro soldier or sailor in uniform is a direct attack on our government. Unless the federal government is willing to protect its soldiers and sailors on leave as well as while on duty, it is impossible to maintain the proper morale among Negro soldiers and sailors and their families, and the authority of government itself is seriously undermined. It is impossible to develop combat efficiency in Negro soldiers and sailors while denying them basic civil rights during the period of their training.

"One of the most serious consequences of congestion on segregated public carriers is the almost daily conflict between colored soldiers and white fellow passengers, whether traveling on duty or on furlough the colored soldier experiences the indignity of segregation. Moreover, he is often ordered to move from seats customarily set aside for Negro passengers so that white persons may be seated. With increasing frequency he is denied accommodations altogether when there are sufficient white persons waiting to fill the entire vehicle.

"In October, in Montgomery, Ala., a Negro army nurse was beaten and her nose broken by city policemen because she refused to vacate the rear seat of a bus so that white passengers might be seated. At about the same time in Norfolk, Va., two Negro sergeants were beaten and jailed for a similar offense. In some large camps a short furlough may be worthless to the Negro soldier because local transportation officials will prevent him from boarding trains or bus so that space may be available for white passengers."

Concerning violence against defense workers, the report stated:

"It is certainly agreed that American citizens have a right to go about their work without molestation by either civilians or state authorities. There are several instances where white workers incited by bigots have refused to work with Negro workers and in some cases have even committed assaults upon Negro workers. In some plants in the state of Alabama, white and colored workers are going to work armed in anticipation of racial outbreaks.

"Now that the Ku Klux Klan is under indictment by the federal government, smaller organizations, such as Vigilantes, Inc., being sponsored by the Talmadges of Georgia, have come into existence. It is the duty of the federal government to ferret out the leaders of these subversive elements aimed to prevent Negroes from working in defense plants."

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WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

SAYS MOB ACTION WAS 'DEPLORABLE'

President of Association for the Prevention of Lynching Writes Courageous Letter to Mayor of Lynch Town.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., July 30—The time honored southern custom of exemplary killing of all Negroes who are suspected of annoying white women was given a setback this week when the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching denounced the brutal Texarkana murder of Willie Vinson.

In a courageous letter to Mayor William V. Brown of Texarkana, Texas, Mrs. A. R. Martin, chairman of the Association, rapped the Texas mobsmen for their "deplorable conduct and disgraceful actions."

PLAY INTO AXIS' HANDS

Wrote Mrs. Martin: "It is with heartfelt sorrow, that following the sadistic burning to death of a Negro in Missouri this past January, I read in our local papers that the great state of Texas should be next to follow in lynching. Respect for law enforcement is the foundation of our democracy and you will agree that, while mob law is that democracy's denial, our enemies will use it to convince their people that our government of freedom is not what we claim it to be.

It was the opinion of the Association that these types of incidents will prove effective weapons in the hands of the enemies of democracy who will use it to the best advantage in proving that the United States is not capable of providing protection for its own citizens much less the ability to extend democracy to the four corners of the world.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

White Women Tell Truth About The Mob

"The Changing Character of Lynching" is an interesting and illuminating 70-page booklet just issued by the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, Atlanta, Georgia, and is a review of the lynching evil in the United States during the past decade. Material in this document was prepared and compiled by Mrs. Jessie Daniels Ames, executive director, Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

One of the interesting views set forth by Mrs. Ames in this thought-provoking document is that lynching has its base in economics. People who are jobless and live in an atmosphere of frustration and poverty are likely to develop passions and hatreds that do not dominate busy and industrious people, and Mrs. Ames fears unless the United States begins now to provide some definite post-war program of employment, the sledding is going to be rough for minority groups who always suffer in the backwash from war.

It is interesting to note that this distinguished Southern white woman has discovered that the crime of rape has not been responsible for the wave of mob murders in the South. Unlike the Southern Sociological Congress, which sought to do pioneer work in the field of better race relations a quarter of a century ago, developing its program on the assumption that the average Negro man was lurking about in the by-paths of Dixie attempting to despoil the virtue of white women, the investigations of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching shows that lynching in nineteen different instances during a period of ten years resulted from the following causes:

Florida, two Negroes, 1931, attacking forest ranger, out on bond.
Georgia, 1933, one Negro, no charge.
Georgia, 1933, one Negro, no charge.
Louisiana, 1933, one Negro, no charge.
Mississippi, one Negro, familiarity with white woman.
Kentucky, one Negro, engaged with altercation with white.
Kentucky, one Negro, striking white man, and too smart.
South Carolina, one Negro, stealing bootleg liquor and selling, keeping the money.
South Carolina, one Negro, no charge.
Tennessee, one Negro, cleared by grand jury for want of evidence on charge of rape.
Georgia, one Negro, turpentine bootlegger.
Louisiana, one Negro, rape of Negro girl.
Mississippi, writing letter to white girl.
Mississipi, one Negro, speaking disrespectful to young white man.
Tennessee, one Negro, striking white man.
Georgia, one Negro, resisting arrest, shot five times in back.
Florida, one Negro, traffic accident.
North Carolina, one Negro, altercation with four white men.
South Carolina, one Negro, labor trouble.

Governor Talmadge of Georgia, now engaged in a campaign for re-election, should read Mrs. Ames' introductory statement in "The Changing Character of Lynching." Governor "Gene" seems to be greatly disturbed about race relations in his home state. He is laboring under the "political" impression that white women are in great danger from black men, although the record compiled by white women in Georgia shows that during the past ten years, when the mob formed four times to murder a Negro, the causes were (1) no charge, (2) no charge, (3) because the slain man was a turpentine bootlegger, (4) lynched man was shot four times in back, charged with resisting arrest, and then lynched.

In not one instance during the past ten years does the record show that a Negro sought to rape a white woman in Georgia. If Negroes were to fabricate untruths about white people just now, while the nation is at war with a foreign foe, as is proved in this instance to be the false report of Governor Talmadge, in Mrs. Ames' booklet and her statistics regarding lynching, such Negroes should be properly charged as inciting to riot.

6876

Harlem Aroused Over Lynching; Browder Rally to Plan Action

OCT 15 1942

Daily Worker

OCT 15 1942

N.Y., N.Y.

Harlem's pent up indignation and fury over the lynching of two Negro children in the state of Mississippi this week will express itself this Sunday 4 P.M. at a mass meeting in Golden Gate Ballroom, 142nd and Lenox Avenue.

The meeting is sponsored by the New York State Election Campaign Committee, Communist Party and will be addressed by Earl Browder, general secretary of the Communist Party, Israel Amter, Communist Candidate for Governor, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Communist candidates for Representative - at - large, Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., Negro win-the-war candidate for Representative-at-large and others.

OCT 15 1942

Planned as a rally in the interest of the candidacy of Mr. Davis, the only win-the-war Negro candidate for Congress, the meeting will protest the lynch terror responsible for the brutal murder of two 14 year old Negro boys in Shubuta, Mississippi last Monday. Community leaders have been invited to express themselves through the meeting on these outrages.

WILL PROPOSE ACTION

According to the committees arranging the meeting proposals will be presented to the meeting for immediate action against lynching and for passage of the anti-poll tax bill by the Senate.

OCT 15 1942

The Upper Harlem Section of the Communist Party will hold a series of open-air meetings before the Sunday meeting. There will be one such meeting 7:30 tonight at 132nd Street and Lenox Avenue where scrap will be collected in addition to rallying the people against the lynching. Benjamin J Davis, Jr., will be the main speaker.

According to committee spokesman these meetings will mobilize for the big rally on Sunday.

Political observers believe that the prominence of the poll tax and the recurrence of lynching in an even more brutal form adds significance to the meeting and to the candidacy of Mr. Davis. This contention is all the more emphasized by the fact that Earl Browder, the titular head of the Communist Party is speaking for Mr. Davis in the latter's home territory, a fact that has drawn the attention of local politicos and places the Negro question sharply for all political parties.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

REBUKE BY MORRIS STIRS COUNCIL ROW

NOV 6 - 1942

Charges of 'Lousy and Barroom Manners' Fly After the Members Are Chided

Council President Newbold Morris upset the equilibrium of the City Council yesterday when he attempted to censure members of the Democratic majority for interrupting the women members when they had the floor.

Mr. Morris was provoked when Councilman Louis Cohen, Bronx Democrat, interrupted Mrs. Genevieve B. Earle, minority leader of the Council.

"You have lousy manners," Mr. Morris shouted at Mr. Cohen.

"You have nothing but barroom manners," Mr. Cohen came back. "You stand up there like a big ape."

NOV 6 - 1942

When Mr. Morris told the Democrats that he was tired of seeing the women members of the Council insulted by the men, the Democrats produced a sarcastic chorus of "Ah's."

Vice Chairman Joseph T. Sharkey rebuked Mr. Morris for "sitting up there and just gabbing."

"I'm not gabbing," the Council President replied. "I'm just lonesome sitting here on the rostrum alone."

"If you're lonesome, why don't you join the Army?" Councilman Cohen suggested. "Maybe you'll become a general."

Mr. Cohen followed up his remark with a request that the reference to his manners be stricken from the record of the meeting. Mr. Morris, however, ruled that his statement was not slander, adding that he would let it stand in the record. He declared that if he could speak his mind on the etiquette of the Council no publication would print what he said.

"If you don't like us, why don't you join the Army?" Councilman Cohen continued.

"You might drive me to it," Mr. Morris replied.

NOV 6 - 1942

"There's a great patriot for you," Mr. Cohen remarked. "He wants to be driven to it."

After the flurry subsided, the Council sent a resolution urging expansion of children's welfare services to its committee on city affairs. Councilman Adam Clayton Powell asked the Councilmen to join in a prayer on the steps of City Hall at noon on Nov. 9 as part of a protest against lynchings. The Council adjourned in respect to the memory of George M. Cohan, producer and composer, who died yesterday morning, and former Hospitals Commissioner S. S. Goldwater, who died last week.

Daily Worker

Council Asked To Join Prayer On Lynchings

N.Y., N.Y.

Nov. 6, 1942

Councilman A. Clayton Powell, only Negro member of the city legislative body, appealed to all members of the City Council yesterday to join in public prayer on the steps of City Hall next Monday at noon in protest against the lynching of two 'teen-age Negro boys in Mississippi two weeks ago.

Powell, who arose on a point of personal privilege near the end of a noisy Council meeting, said that the prayers asking that lynching be wiped out would be offered by a Catholic priest, a Protestant minister and a Jewish rabbi.

"I have recently returned from a trip to the deep south and the mid-west and I am tragically concerned about the Negroes' attitude toward the war effort," Councilman Powell said.

He pointed to the recent lynching of Charles Lang and Ernest Green, two Negro youths in Mississippi, as a step weakening the war effort and the fight for democracy.

The City Hall public prayer ceremony is backed by the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance, whose president is Rev. S. H. Sweeney of St. Marks Methodist Episcopal Church; the Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater New York, and Catholic, Protestant and Jewish religious leaders throughout the city.

Rev. S. T. Eldrich, president of the Baptist Ministers Conference, will participate in the ceremonies. Rev. Shelton Hale Bishop, rector of St. Phillip's P. E. Church are expected to participate in the public prayer with Rev. William Lloyd Imes, pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church.

Persons attending the ceremony have been asked to wear crepe bands on their arms to indicate mourning for the Negro youths who were murdered by the Mississippi mob.

Earlier in the Council meeting the gallery witnessed a not-uncommon councilmanic performance, featuring considerable billingsgate.

When Councilwoman Genevieve B. Earle, supported by Councilman Powell, arose to ask early consideration of a resolution asking the Mayor and the Board of Estimate to restore a number of juvenile aid workers to the Police Department staff, Councilman Louis Cohen leaped to his feet and demanded that Mrs. Earle be declared out of order.

Council President Newbold Morris, who was asked to make the ruling against Mrs. Earle, turned to Cohen and upbraided him for his "lousy manners."

Cohen retorted by calling Morris a "big ape."

This was followed by angry discussion on whether the Cohen-Morris controversy should be recorded in full on the record of the Council.

"Take all the rest out of the record," said Cohen, "but let the 'ape' stand."

The child aid resolution was shunted off to a committee.

To Fight Lynchers to Finish--Marcantonio

Daily Worker
N.Y., N.Y.
OCT 27 1942

Keynote of the fight against lynching today was sounded Sunday by Representative Vito Marcantonio, who told an enthusiastic audience in Salem Methodist Church in Harlem that:

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"We of the National Emergency Committee to Stop Lynching will not accept any announcement, nor any recommendation, nor any reports as an answer. The only way to fight lynching is through action. And we intend to get action. This committee will not stop its effort for a single day until the perpetrators of the three lynchings in Mississippi last week are actually punished."

The National Emergency Committee of which Mr. Marcantonio is chairman was sponsor of the meeting together with the National Negro Congress and the Salem Church Lyceum. Other officers of the committee who spoke were Ferdinand C. Smith, secretary, and Dr. Max Yergan, treasurer.

TO SEE GOV. JOHNSON

The fiery Harlem representative described the initiation of the committee just one week ago, at his call, and its growth until already it includes dozens of Negro and white trade unionists, leaders of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, the Negro Elks, and prominent individuals and representatives of peoples' organizations all over the country.

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The committee, he said, will in the next few days send a delegation to Mississippi, to confer with Governor Paul B. Johnson, whose announced position for vigorous prosecution of the lynchers, of cooperation with the FBI in its investigation of the lynchings, and characterization of lynchers as Fifth Columnists was hailed by Mr. Marcantonio and other speakers at the meeting as offering a real opportunity to see through a lynching prosecution to its conclusion of the death penalty for the criminals.

"We propose to take this fight to the White House, to Attorney General Biddle, to everyone in a position of authority," Marcantonio said. "We intend to get action."

Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., candidate for Representative-at-Large, was interrupted by applause when, at one point, he said, "I am a Communist." He was saying that the question of winning the war and eliminating jim crow "which cripples our maximum strength," is "bigger than party labels."

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

Davis said: OCT 27 1942

"Now is the time for the Republican, the Democratic, the American Labor and the Communist



VITO MARCANTONIO

parties to unite to crush Hitler through a second front abroad and to wipe out jim crow at home. I am a Communist and I am willing——"

The crowd drowned his words in applause.

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The Rev. Mr. Trigg, chairman of the meeting and a newcomer to Harlem, praised trade unions for welding Negro and white citizens together for the defeat of fascism.

New Republic
New York, N. Y

NOV 2 1942

Back to Lynching

Three recent lynchings in Mississippi have served the Axis cause more brilliantly than could any squad of saboteurs landed from a submarine. They have dealt a blow to the already shaken morale of the Negro tenth of our population, who have lived with the bitter realization that they are denied democracy in a democracy which is fighting for its life. Governor Paul Johnson of Mississippi spoke a simple and humane observation in stating that the real "Negro problem" was the problem of the Negro to earn a living for his family. But in attributing the lynchings to Axis elements at work in Mississippi he is denying the ultimate and bitter truth. White Mississippians—probably not an Axis sympathizer among them—Mississippians with sons and brothers fighting courageously all over the world, murdered two fourteen-year-old Negro boys and an older Negro prisoner through their simple, implacable, arrogant belief that the Negro is a near-animal and must be kept in fear and respect of the white man.

War industries have brought the Negro workman better wages and have increased his self-respect and his feeling of independence. One of the basic reasons for disturbed race relations in the South is the fact that Negro women servants by the thousands can quit working for white women when dissatisfied and can get employment in war factories or live on their husbands' wages. The loosening of the white man's economic control leads him to try to continue his control over the Negro by violence. Three lynchings within a week are bad enough, but even more tragic results can be expected unless the federal government quits dodging the issue and makes a strong and bona-fide approach to the problem. Recently the white populations of both Memphis and Norfolk were terrified by the rumor that a certain hour had been set for a Negro uprising. It required vigorous efforts on the part of the authorities to prevent violent reactions against the Negroes. Such explosive rumors may indeed be started by enemy agents, but anyone who knows the South knows also that the psychology of the white population is fully capable of such aberrations.

Call In the FBI

Federal authorities have shown a timid approach to this problem, and it is going to get out of hand unless they begin soon with a real effort to fight it. A lynching is a kidnaping, and this is a crime which the FBI is charged with combating. The way to discourage white Mississippians and all other Southerners from murdering Negro prisoners is for the FBI to go in after a lynching, conduct an investigation that means business, and obtain murder indictments against the men responsible. Lynchings and race violence will be controlled when white townsmen and farmers know they risk long prison or even death sentences for crimes like hanging fourteen-year-old Negro boys from a bridge. No pious words from federal officials are going to allay the inner bitterness of Negroes when, as in the recent Sikestown, Missouri, lynching, a phony investigation is made and lynchers go unpunished.

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The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

6877

Hitler's Radio Gloats Over Missouri Lynching

Murder of Cleo Wright Is Treason Against National Unity

FEB 2 1942

By Jack James

The lynching of Cleo Wright, 28-year-old Negro mill worker in Sikeston, Mo., on Jan. 25 was an unspeakable crime against a defenseless human being in itself demanding of the severest penalties against the guilty criminals.

However, when we weigh this lynching in terms of the consequent effect it could have upon our war effort then it reveals itself as an even more horrible deed.

The Tokio and Berlin short-wave radio station are already citing this lynching as "evidence" of the treatment in store for the colored races of South Africa and the East—allies of the United States—in event of a victory of the democracies.

In peacetime, a lynching in the South of the United States is a horrible and gruesome crime of mass terrorism and violence.

For decades, the Negro people, the working class and progressive forces have fought for the wiping out of lynching as a part of the general struggle to extend and enrich democracy in our country.

Today, however, with our country being assailed by a deadly combination of would-be world conquerers, when "our country is engaged in a life and death struggle against Hitlerism," the crime of lynching must be judged in an entirely new light—in light of the requirements for military victory against the Axis enemy.

ARMED CONSPIRACY

FEB 2 1942

With our country at war, a lynching should be viewed as an armed conspiracy against the national unity of our people.

Lynching is an insurrectionary act against the national security in time of war. It is a conscious deed of sabotage and interference with a domestic phase of the military program for the defeat of the enemy; it is a political crime of treason against the U. S. Government.

The need of a war unity, embracing all Americans, has sharpened the consciousness of white Americans, North and South, to the existence of the system of jim crow inequalities and injustices which afflict the Negro people. The American people through their organizations are most determined to right these "ancient evils" by taking up the fight against all those discriminatory barriers which operate to prevent the Negro people from making their fullest possible contribution to the defense of America.

Already points have been chalked up against Jim Crow in certain industries, federal agencies and branches of the armed service. President Roosevelt has taken cognizance of the need to further the advancement of the Negro people to a plane of equality not only because it is the right of all American citizens but as a necessary war measure to strengthen our unity and democratic morale.

In his State of the Nation address on June 5, he warned against "racial discrimination in any of its ugly forms." Trade Unions, Church leaders, newspaper editors, many popular organizations and outstanding individuals are actively campaigning for the enforcement of the citizenship rights of Negroes.

FEB 2 1942

PEOPLE ALERT

The American people as at no other time since the Emancipation Proclamation are ready today to go "all out" in the support of the just demands of the Negro people for the opportunity to serve their country in the fullest capacity as equal citizens. They are ready to support bold strokes of statesmanship on the part of our government which would effectively implement and enforce the citizenship rights of the Negro people as guaranteed in the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments of our Constitution.

From the very beginning, the Negro people have recognized this war as their own. After the first Japanese bombs rained down on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, young Julius Ellsbury, a sailor, and other sons of the Negro people, were counted among the first Americans to lay down their lives in the defense of our flag against the murderous Axis defilers of humankind.

They will continue to make no end of sacrifices necessary to defend our country and crush this new attack of Axis slavemasters against the peoples of the world. They have not and will not let the gnawing condition of Jim-Crowism which they suffer to becloud their vision or confuse their understanding of the fact that only through support of the government's war for the military destruction of the Hitler Axis can victories for Negro rights be won.

FEB 2 1942

PUNISH LYNCHERS

It is incumbent upon the anti-Hitler masses of our country, through their trade unions, religious organizations, etc., and as individuals to join with the organizations of the Negro people in insisting that our government take the sternest and most far reaching measures against the Sikeston sadists. Let President Roosevelt speak out against this Hitler-like act of butchery. Let us insist that federal action be taken and that the punishment meted out to the guilty parties be equal to their brutal crime against Cleo Wright, against the patriotic Negro people, against the national unity and internal security of the United States.

FEB 2 1942

The promptness with which Governor Forrest Donnell reacted in ordering an investigation of the lynching is something new for a Southern official. It now remains for the governor to follow through this statement with action to see that the lynchers and all their accomplices are brought to justice.

Our government has a responsibility to its 14,000,000 loyal Negro citizens; our government has a responsibility to the millions of darker peoples all over the world—our allies in war against the Japanese, German and Italian enslavers; our government has a responsibility to the Southern white masses to mete out a quick, thorough and demonstrative justice to these executionors of Hitler-Hirohito and Mussolini crimes of infamy against our people and our national defense.

Telegrams and letters should be sent to J. Edgar Hoover, Atty. General Arnold and President Roosevelt demanding a democratic people's justice against the perpetrators of this lynching of Cleo Wright.

The mob was variously estimated as numbering from 200 to 600 men. Every single one should be jailed and fined.

The fiend who tied the victim to the back of an automobile and drove it through the Negro neighborhood should be electrocuted for murder along with his accomplice who poured gasoline upon the corpse and set it afire.

Severe sentences for the officers for dereliction of duty in not protecting the prisoner is called for.

In this hour of national peril when national unity is a requirement for victory let our government reassure the Negro people and strike a devastating blow at the fascist propagandists by treating this lynching as a military crime against the safety of the nation. Death to the lynchers—would-be despoilers of our national unity.

FEB 2 1942

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Track Down The Lynchers!

JAN 27 1942

A lyncher is not only a cowardly murderer; he is a traitor to the United States in this hour when the national will demands national unity.

The horrible details of the lynching at Sikeston, Missouri, turn every decent American's blood cold with anger. The murderers who seized Cleo Wright as their victim raised the usual and cynical yelp of "suspected rape" to justify their hideous act of dragging a helpless human being through the streets to a death by fire and torture.

To his credit, Governor Forrest Donnell has issued a statement in which he summons local officials to bring the lynchers to trial.

This crime in Missouri is a national matter. The authorities at Washington have a grave duty to the nation and the Negro people who are so magnificently making their contribution to the war against Hitlerism. Federal officials have the duty of upholding the Constitution; let them go to Sikeston, Missouri and protect the Constitution from the lynch killers who defile it.

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The Negro people and their fellow-Americans are grimly resolved that the lynchers shall be apprehended and punished to the full; that the Anti-Lynch Bill shall become the law of the land; and that every vestige of discrimination in industry, in social life, and in the armed forces, shall be abolished.

This country is engaged in a life and death struggle to crush Hitlerism. Realizing this, the people are showing more than ever before a spirit of cooperation with the Negro people on a basis of equality in the common democratic cause. The Missouri lynching is a savage attempt to halt the development of this unity. Only the appeasers and the Fifth Columnists can profit from this crime.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Whitewash Of Lynchers Stirs People Of Missouri

MAR 16 1942

Protests Mount as Grand Jury Refuses to Act In Sikeston Case

(Special to the Daily Worker)

ST. LOUIS, Mo., March 15.—A storm of protest swept the progressive forces of this city and the state of Missouri this week after a Scott County Grand Jury, composed entirely of white business men, had "white washed" the mob of lynchers who burned Cleo Wright, Negro cotton seed oil worker, to death at Sikeston in the "boot-heel" area of Missouri on Jan. 25.

The jury returned "no bill" on the lynching on March 11, after what was a farcial investigation that took only ten hours of its time in a two-day session.

No comment was forthcoming from the jury on the lynching of Wright except to say that "it hoped this would put an end to discussion and agitation about the Sikeston business.

Nor was there any comment from County Prosecutor David Blanton who had promsied "that justice would be done." Assistant Attorney General Harry Kay who had been sent in by Gov. Forrets Donnell to assist Blanton in the investigation was non-committal, too.

HOPE FOR FEDERAL ACTION

Inasmuch as Missouri has no anti-lynching law, Negro and white leaders hope that the U. S. Department of Justice will resume its investigation of the case and bring the lynchers to justice for violation of the civil rights amendment of the Constitution.

The feeling of the vast majority of Missourians was well expressed by William Sentner, an international vice president of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, CIO, in a telegram today to Gov. Donnell urging that he ask for federal intervention.

"The whitewash action of the grand jury," Sentner wired, "is an insult to the democratic integrity of our state and its loyal citizens.

"Persecutions, lynchings and attacks against a minority group are the stock in trade of our Axis enemies.

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"Can we Missourians allow this shameful crime against democracy to go unpunished? If we do, what right do we have to speak as defenders of democracy to the Norwegians, Poles, Czechs, Malayans, Balinese, the dark peoples of South America, Africa and Asia? We must show these little peoples of the world that we can smash Ku Kluxism in the United States wherever it may arise, just as we are determined to smash Hitlerism throughout the world.

PROVES NEED OF BILL

"The whitewash action of the Scott County grand jury conclusively proves that lynchers cannot be brought to justice by local law enforcement agencies ridden with the same lynch spirit and determined to save their ugly hides.

"It behooves you as chief executive of our state to declare our state unable to bring justice in this case and to call upon the federal government to take over again for full enforcement of the civil rights amendment of our constitution."

In Jefferson City, Gov. Donnell refused to comment on the grand jury's action until he had conferred with Assistant Attorney General Kay.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Angry Harlem Rally Condemns Lynching

A large audience, mainly Negroes and most of them active trade unionists, applauded Clifford T. McAvoy, legislative director, Greater New York Industrial Union Council, CIO, Wednesday night when he denounced the Texas lynching Monday as "plain, simple and unadulterated Nazism."

"The fight to bring Willie Vinson's murderers to justice is a fight to unify the people of the United States,' McAvoy declared, "and unless we keep up that fight until the murderers are punished, we are headed for defeat in this anti-fascist war."

Mr. McAvoy was principal speaker at a mass meeting called at the Renaissance Casino, 138th St. and Seventh Ave., by the Negro Labor Victory Committee and the National Conference of Negro Youth to do something about the lynching of 25-year-old Willie Vinson, Negro restaurant worker.

McAvoy said the fight to bring Vinson's murderers to justice was "the fight of all Americans and not of the Negro people alone." The CIO, he pledged, "will continue to fight side by side with the Negro people, until complete economic, political and social equality has been achieved."

Referring to the war, the CIO representative pointed out "two sources of treachery in the United States today; those who would undermine our confidence in the Soviet Union . . . and fascist forces," in this country, making attacks on the Negro people and thus trying to destroy national unity.

Some of the best speeches were made, spontaneously, by persons in the audience.

The meeting adopted a resolutino calling on President Roosevelt "to issue a proclamation defining the citizenship rights of Negro Americans," asking "the governors of the 48 states and the mayors of our cities to issue like proclamations," and ordering "all federal agencies to take swift and appropriate action to safeguard the rights of Negro Americans."

The trade union character of the meeting was further emphasized in the large number of telegrams pledging support of powerful locals.

Mrs. Dorothy K. Funn, representing the Negro Labor Victory Committee and Miss Ruth Jett, of the National Council of Negro Youth, were joint chairmen of the meeting.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

U.S. JURY CONTINUES LYNCHING PROBE

JUL 11 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 9—The Department of Justice announced this week that the Federal Grand Jury in St. Louis investigating the Sikeston, Mo., lynching case adjourned over the Fourth of July holiday and will reconvene about July 20 to consider the matter further. Reports that the Grand Jury has completed its investigation are untrue.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Why No Action On Lynchings? Biddle Asked

(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, July 17.—A delegation from the Negro Labor Victory Committee, which recently held the huge win-the-war conference in Harlem, yesterday asked Attorney General Biddle to take immediate action to stop the wave of lynch terror against Negro Americans.

The delegation was headed by Ewart Guinlere, Secretary of the Victory Committee, and Miss Dorothy K. Funn, a leading member of the Committee and of the Teachers' Union. They saw Biddle as a wave of indignation was arising from Negro citizens and progressive trade unionists, growing out of the fact that Biddle has failed to prosecute the lynchers of Cleo Wright in Sikeston, Missouri, and has apparently failed to take any action whatever to apprehend the lynchers of Willie Vinson in Texarkana, Texas.

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One of the specific proposals made by the two delegates from the committee was that Biddle ask the President to issue a proclamation guaranteeing the citizenship rights of Negroes.

They said that Biddle had promised to discuss the situation with President Roosevelt.

Another delegation from the Negro Labor Victory Committee conferred during the day with Wendell Lund, director of the War Production Board's Labor Production Division.

This group asked Lund to take steps to see to it that war contracts are awarded to the Spring Products Company in Long Island.

The plant will be sold at auction next week and 450 workers thrown out of their jobs unless prompt action is taken.

Four hundred of the 450 workers are Negroes.

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Labor, Negro Leaders Assail Texas Lynching

The general feeling of community leaders here on the lynching in Texas Monday is one of shock, combined with horror and anger.

Five busy persons interviewed by phone—two labor leaders, an organizer for the Communist Party, a member of the Teachers Union and the head of a citywide Negro organization—found it difficult to temper their voices in discussing this latest act by what one of them called "these racist criminals."

The lynching, as reported by the United Press, was perpetrated yesterday at Texarkana, Tex., by a mob which dragged him (the victim) behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged him from a cotton gin winch." Willie Vinson, the lynch victim, was taken from a hospital, having already been shot by a mob gang after a trumped-up charge of "attempted rape."

URGES UNION ACTION

"It is horribly shocking, especially at a time like this, when we are striving so desperately to achieve national unity," said Lyndon Henry, business manager of the Fur Dressers and Dyers Union and himself a Negro.

Mr. Henry continued:

"A crime like this makes our efforts all the harder. At the same time it puts squarely up to the trade unions this task: to do something at once that will make the repetition of such horrible outrage impossible."

Abner W. Berry, Communist Party organizer for Upper Harlem, said that the names of Willie Vinson and Odell Waller "are linked as symbols of a crime against the nation."

"The murderers of Vinson," he continued, "inflamed by Nazi-like race hatred, are of a stripe with the undercover conspirators who scheme to sabotage our nation's war effort. It is time—indeed, past time—that the Department of Justice treated these racist criminals as they deserve: arrest them, try them and execute them."

CIO LEADER IN PROTEST

Saul Mills secretary - treasurer of the Greater New York CIO Council, sent the following telegram to the Governor of Texas:

"The lynching of Willie Vinson is a crime against all the people of the nation and one which directly threatens our very security as a nation. The national unity necessary to defeat the fascist Axis can never be achieved if lawless mobs are to be permitted to practice Hitler tactics in order to persecute a people whose loyalty and energies are vitally important to our winning the war. Until Texas brings the perpetrators of this crime to justice, it cannot be considered as a state contributing to victory over fascism, for this lynching is itself fascism in action."

Mrs. Dorothy Funn, member of the Negro Labor Victory Committee and a member of the Teachers Union, said the Committee was calling on the President to issue an Executive Order—he set a precedent, she said, in Executive Order 8802 against Negro job discrimination in war industries—to state and local governments demanding an end to Hitler treatment of the Negro people as necessary to an anti-Hitler victory.

"We're pleading for Negro boys to go and fight Hitler," Mrs. Funn exclaimed, "and here they're being lynched by the fascists in Texas."

Hope Stevens, president of the Manhattan Council, National Negro Congress, said the "horror of this incident will demoralize the Negro people more than any other recent incident has done." He declared that unless the United States Government took steps immediately to protest the continued violation of the rights of Negro citizens and to guarantee their lives and liberty, all talk of victory over fascism in this war will be a mockery, while all elements of American fascism will triumph."

Mr. Stevens said the President himself must act to punish the lynchers of Willie Vinson.

Protest Rally On Saturday

The Upper Harlem Section of the Communist Party Saturday evening will hold a patriotic demonstration against the most recent Texas lynching, Abner W. Berry, organizer, announced yesterday. Ben Davis, Jr., member of the editorial board of the Daily Worker, will be the chief speaker, others including Henry Johnson for the YCL and Mrs. Minnie Battice, for the Communist Party. The demonstration is called for 7 o'clock at 126th St. and Seventh Ave.

— An Editorial —

Action!

Personal anger and revulsion, vital as they are, are not enough as a response to the three lynchings of Negroes in the last 12 days. The latest outrage was the horrible murder of Willie Vinson in poll-tax Texas on Monday.

Action should be taken to see that the traitorous lynchers are executed and that such heinous crimes against Negroes and the war effort will never take place again. Hold protest meetings in your community. Memorialize your city councils and state legislative bodies. Demand enforcement of the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments by the Department of Justice. Urge passage of the anti-lynch and anti-poll tax bills. Wire President Roosevelt to speak out promptly and act boldly against job discrimination—urge the extension and strengthening of the good work of the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee.

Negro and white—above all, the trade unions—should act now and unitedly for the ending of the Hitlerite jim crow which seriously endangers our all-out victory effort against Hitler.

Birmingham, Ala. News
October 7, 1942

Changes In Lynching

For 20 years anti-lynching bills, with attendant heated debate, dissertations and filibusters on constitutionality and states' rights, have engaged the attention of Congress. For 20 years and more the press, in both North and South, has editorialized against the flouting of law and the madness of mob violence. For 10 years Southern women representing church and social organizations have pursued a program of education and of political action directed against sheriffs and other officers of the law to prevent lynching. Now, according to a report of the committee on interracial cooperation, the time when there may be no need for anti-lynching bills would seem to be in sight.

In the last few years there has been a sustained drop in the number of lynchings—from eight in 1936 and 1937 to six in 1938, three in 1939, five in 1940 and four in 1941. There has also been a change in the character of lynchings. Recent ones involved not large mobs and spectacular man-hunts but small groups who killed and fled. Lynchers have tended to drop the claim—thanks, no doubt, to the repudiation of this justification by Southern women themselves—that the crimes were undertaken for the protection of white women. And lynchings have been confined to a few Southern states.

But, though the public reaction against mob violence and exhibitions of sadism have reduced lynching as it is customarily defined in anti-lynching bills—the putting to death by "three or more persons" "without authority of law" of "persons in the custody of peace officers," etc.—there are indications that private crimes of violence against Negroes have not been reduced. Negroes are still found riddled with bullets along a creek bank, and Negroes are still reported missing after an altercation with a white man. (All lynchings in the last three years and a large proportion in earlier years have been for minor offenses against the law or against the white man's social code.) So, though lynching is on the decline, the unsolved murders and unpunished murderers are still to be dealt with. Lynching has been reduced in large part through the efforts of Southerners; is it too much to hope that the stealthier crimes, betokening the continuance of a Nazi-Fascist type of racial hatred pursued without regard to justice, will be dealt with in the same way?—New York Herald-Tribune.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Why Doesn't Biddle Act?

SEVERAL days have elapsed since a delegation from the Negro Labor Victory Committee of Harlem laid before Attorney General Biddle in Washington the necessity for immediate action by the Department of Justice to stop the wave of lynch terror against Negro Americans.

This delegation of leading trade unionists, which was giving effect to the decisions of the win-the-war conference in Harlem on June 28, specifically asked prosecution of the lynchers of Willie Vinson in Texarkana, Texas, and justly insisted upon the strict enforcement of the Negro's constitutional rights as essential to national unity in the war effort.

The timeliness of the delegation's appearance was emphasized by the fact that even while it was taking up the Vinson lynching, the world-famous Negro artist, Roland Hayes, and his wife were being assaulted by poll tax lawbreakers in Georgia.

Since the appearance of the delegation, many unions and meetings of Negro and white have spoken out in the same vein, including the win-the-war conference of CIO, AFL and Negro citizens in Buffalo, New York, last Sunday, and the NAACP convention in Los Angeles which made special reference to the Hitlerite attack upon the Hayes'.

Notwithstanding all this, including the mounting anti-jim crow sentiment of white Americans and the anti-discriminatory character of President Roosevelt's greetings to the NAACP convention, no vigorous and decisive action has been noted from Biddle's office to uphold Negro rights or to prosecute Hitlerite lynchers. Why?

When it comes to libelling the Communists and persecuting such an outstanding labor leader and anti-fascist as Harry Bridges, Biddle can act with indecent haste. But nothing has been heard from the Department of Justice's pursuit of the case against the lynchers of Cleo Wright at Sikeston, Mo., and still less has been heard with reference to the murder of Vinson and of Private Jessie Smith in Flagstaff, Ariz.

Holding such a vital post in the national government, it is incumbent upon Biddle to act now against the lynchers, the Coughlins, the anti-Semitic gangs and the Ku Klux Klan which long ago should have been disbanded.

Biddle's inaction is a big obstacle to the steps against discrimination taken by President Roosevelt through the Fair Employment Practice Committee. Upon the Department of Justice rests the responsibility to see that the traitorous lynchers and the fifth column apostles of disunity and racial hatred are prosecuted to the limit of the law. In the interest of equal rights which are essential to victory over the common enemy, labor, the Negro people and all other patriotic Americans will demand no less.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

'Silent' Parade to Protest Lynchings

Mrs. Ann Arnold Hedgeman, member of the Office of Civilian Defense, here, and Dr. Lawrence Ervin, president of the New York Division, March on Washington Movement, are among prominent Negroes who will address the silent parade, Saturday, when it reaches Union Square at 4 P. M., from the place of assembly at 59th St. and Eighth Ave.

The office of the March on Washington Movement, sponsor of the parade and the meeting, said yesterday that assembly for the demonstration, intended to protest recent outrages against the Negro people, would take place at Columbus Circle, 59th St. and Eighth Ave., at 2:30 P. M.

Except for muffled drumbeats, marchers will be expected to observe absolute silence until they are greeted by music and speakers at 14th St. and Fourth Ave. They will wear black armbands and will carry placards protesting the lynching of Willie Vinson in Texarkana, Tex., the legal lynching of Odell Waller in Virginia the murder of Private Jessie Smith in Flagstaff, Ariz., and the beating and manhandling of Roland Hayes, world-famous Negro tenor, by Rome, Ga., police last week.

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The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Lynchers Are 5th Columnists, Paper Charges

FEB 1 1942

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 31. — The Sikeston, Missouri lynchers were called "fifth columnists, or worse" by the Birmingham News in a strong editorial calling for "tolerance and understanding" as necessary to winning the war.

"The American men selling their lives in the Philippines for the honor of their country are dishonored by fellow-countrymen at home who sell honor along with life. Lynchers today are little different from fifth columnists. In many respects they are worse," the News said.

"High among the purposes for which we fight this war is the aim to create a world where racial differences may be adjusted in peace and where intolerance may be minimized. . . . We want a world where all nations and all peoples may be enabled to cultivate unhindered their strong points and make in peace and dignity their contributions to a common civilization.

"A skirmish in that battle was lost when a mob in Missouri took a Negro from jail, dragged him behind a car through the streets and then set the body afire. . . . It is harder now, in good conscience to wage a war in defense of our way of life. . . .

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"There is, amid the shame and blackness, one comforting thought. Actions like those . . . definitely are contrary to the abiding ideas of the American people. The great mass of public opinion condemns lynching."

Rocky Mount, N. C., Weekly News
January 30, 1942

RECORD IS SMEARED

Professor Patterson, down at Tuskegee Institute, and every other American citizen, who had hoped that somehow or other we might be able to get through the year 1942 without a lynching, saw their fondest hopes smashed during the weekend as one of the most brutal exhibitions of mob violence ever to be placed on the books was recorded at Sikeston, Missouri.

According to Associated Press dispatches from the Missouri town a critically wounded Negro, who had been suspected of the attempted rape of a white woman, was taken from the city jail by a mob of more than 800, dragged through the Negro district and the body set afire. The Negro, according to the dispatch, was critically wounded by a patrolman in making the capture. He had stabbed a policeman after his capture and had admitted stabbing and seriously wounding the wife of an army officer.

That he was guilty of a crime was obvious. That he was to be dealt with according to the stern dictates of the law also appeared quite evident. So he was placed in jail awaiting trial.

Then the mob began to gather. The county prosecutor attempted to reason with the crowd, but to no avail. He was thrust aside as the mob seized the Negro stuffed him into the trunk compartment of a car and he then was "taken to the Negro district where he was dragged through the streets behind an automobile. Later the body was cut loose and gasoline applied."

What is our civilization coming to when men are guilty of such inhuman conduct? Admittedly, this is the exception to the rule. Not once in a decade does anything so brutal occur. But that is too often. Such an action not only blackens the name of an entire city and county but casts an evil reflection upon an entire state. It also discredits much that has been said about the South's ability to handle the problem of mob violence without having the federal government step in and take a hand through the much-discussed anti-lynching legislation in

Congress,
Columbia S. C. Record
January 29, 1942

Defeating Own Purposes.

The Southern Frontier, published by the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, discussing Tuskegee's report of four lynchings in 1941 concedes that neither of the homicides in North and South Carolina, listed as lynchings, could be called a lynching under the definition set forth in the proposed federal anti-lynching law.

And the attack at Andrews on February 20, 1940, upon Bruce Tisdale, Negro, who died at a Florence hospital of injuries received in a fight with five white men, two of whom were convicted on manslaughter charges, was obviously no lynching. Nor was the slaying of Robert Melker, Negro, in Gaston county, North Carolina, April 13, 1941, for which four white men were convicted of manslaughter.

To miscall them lynchings is to defeat the efforts of those who have been working in these states to prevent lynchings. Since 1937 both North and South Carolina had escaped the stigma of lynchings and to brand them now as backsliders is to discourage rather than to encourage their efforts to maintain this record unbroken.

Spartanburg S. C. Journal
January 28, 1942

Missouri Lynching

The lynching of a negro man by a mob at Sikeston, Mo., makes an ugly news story. The negro, suspected of attempted assault on a white woman, was critically wounded before being lodged in jail. He was dragged from prison by the blood-thirsty mob and his body was saturated with oil, prior to being set afire. Then the burning corpse was dragged through the negro district of the town. A more revolting and striking example of mob law could scarcely be found.

There is no good time for a lynching; the brutal cowardice of mob vengeance cannot be defended under any circumstances—neither can barbarous defiance of law and constituted authority. In times of allout war such crime is all the more reprehensible. The nerves of people are ragged and edged to a razor-blade keenness. Passions, prejudices, frenzies are ever latent, and war time itself acts as a leaven to stir them to outbursts. Forces of law and order should see to it that not a single lynching blurs South Carolina's escutcheon during 1942 or the years subsequent thereto.

Birmingham, Ala News
February 8, 1942

THE EVIL OF LYNCHING

To the Editor The News:

After reading and making a careful study of your editorial in The News of Monday, Jan. 26, in which you took such a heroic stand against that awful evil of lynching, we wish to commend your manner of speaking out against this great evil. Lynching is a disgrace to our professed Christian ideals, an insult to our courts, a violation of the principles of orderly government and a brutal denial of the constitutional rights pledged every citizen of our great republic. As a race group we have taken every occasion to defend our country with its lofty ideals and institutions, from the Revolutionary War to the present conflict. Again we wish to thank you for the editorial, believing that this will do much good towards blotting out this evil.

By the order of the Fellowship Council, an alliance of the pastors and presiding elders of the Colored M. E. Church of the Birmingham area, representing 25 ministers, representing over 25,000 people in and around Birmingham.

S. J. MASHAW, President.
W. L. PERKINS,
J. H. WILLIAMS,
G. H. YARBROUGH,
Committee.

Birmingham.

Charleston S. C. News & Courier
January 29, 1942

Missouri Mob

Sikeston, where a mob of cruel cowards burned a negro to death the other night, is in Scott county, southwestern part of Missouri, across the Mississippi from Kentucky, and, therefore, it must be conceded, to our shame, that the mob was composed in the main of Southerners. The victim of the mob, charged with an attempt to hurt a white woman, could have been tried, convicted if proved guilty, in the courts, presupposing that they have courts in Scott county. This infamy in Missouri was a lynching, and Tuskegee Institute of Alabama, which sets itself up as the American authority on lynching, does not in definition make a difference between a crime of its kind and a fight in South Carolina between three or four white men and two or three negroes which resulted in the death of a negro—for which offense two white men are under sentence for manslaughter. This looseness of definition is calculated to stir racial antagonisms. In New York city a few weeks ago negro mobs, of two or three or a dozen, were attacking white people near Central Park, and one of those "mobs" killed a white boy nineteen years old.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
January 31, 1942

Dragon Seed for 1942

THE right of fair trial is one of the most cherished Anglo-Saxon institutions which the United States is defending against the attacks of the Axis aggressors. We entered World War II with a sheet that had grown far cleaner on the score of lynching, than was the corresponding page of 20-odd years ago. Tuskegee Institute reported only four

lynchings in the United States during 1941, while in 19 instances officers of the law prevented mob violence.

The year 1942 gets off to a bad start with the savage lynching at Sikeston, Mo. There, a mob took from jail a wounded Negro who was suspected of having attempted to attack a soldier's wife, stuffed him into the trunk of an automobile, carried him to the colored residential section of the town where he was dragged through the streets, and then set his body on fire after soaking it with gasoline. The lynching mob's first blood of 1942 was peculiarly revolting. The story of its vengeance reads like an episode in a Chinese village conquered by the Japanese.

Whenever a mob on the warpath successfully storms a jail, the dragon seed have been sown again. Again, States must be more careful than ever in their efforts to reinforce local justice, where it is likely to give way under stress. Governors should realize now, that difficult times are ahead in race relations and if we are to improve the record more vigilance than ever is necessary.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
January 30, 1942

WARNING.

To the Editor: The recent lynching of a suspected Negro in Missouri should be and is a warning to every American Negro. We do need national unity in engaging in this conflict. Therefore as a result of this lynching Negroes should be stimulated to pledge their devoted services to destroying these totalitarian principles from the face of the earth.

The destruction of Hitlerism and mobism is one of the hoped for results of this war. The principles of Hitler must not be destroyed in Europe alone but everywhere they exist in the world.

Society itself must annihilate mob-violence in any form that endangers a human life—anywhere. It must take definite steps to prevent the recurrence of such uncivilized, inhuman, venomous incidents.

Any person who suggests that mob violence is right and the way, yea, any individual who admires such action on the part of those who are his fellowmen must be by choice un-American, un-Christian, inhuman, irrational, planicious and a vile being unfit to live among or with the human family.

JAMES A. EVERETT.

Washington, D. C. Post
January 30, 1942

Lynching Outrage

Of the 15 million Negroes of the United States, thousands of them are giving their lives in the service of the United States Army as well as other branches of the service. All of this is to preserve the "American Way of Life."

For an example, think of the thousands who are at this moment giving their lives in the Philippines for the "American Way of Life" under Gen. MacArthur.

The Negro has never been a slacker or a coward when it comes to fighting for the freedom of his country.

Shall we take the mob action at Sikeston, Mo., a few days ago as an example of the "American Way of Life?" When a Negro had already been shot three times, the mob then tied him to a car, poured gasoline on his body, and dragged him only through a residential section where Negroes live.

I believe that when a man is guilty of a crime, regardless of his color, he should be punished according to criminal law.

It is a disgrace to every Negro American as well as the cultured and civilized whites, for that portion of barbarous and uncivilized whites of this country to drag one of color through a residential section, thus trying to show the world and every section of this country that every Negro American is guilty of the crime committed by one insane Negro.

Only men just emerged from the cave age would take the supreme law of the land in their own hand. No cultured and civilized people or race would do it.

All the laws of this land are made by the white man. Surely they should abide by them.

The Negro was a faithful loyal person in the past. Do the white people expect him to be a true loyal subject in the future under these existing mob conditions?

Don't you think the American people should clean American houses before trying to clean the houses of Europe and the Far East?

NAPOLEON S. BAKER.

Washington, Jan. 27.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
July 28, 1942

Liberalites Instigate Lynching

A Liberalite magazine, re-trying the Waller case (Waller was executed for murder in Virginia) in a two thousand word article, quotes this expression from Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and it lets out of the bag the program that the Liberalites are endeavoring to make effective:

"Waller is executed, and we lost the fight to save his life, but even so we went a step forward. Negroes are learning to use pressure. We are learning that it is the function of heads of government to be constantly balancing pressure, and the strongest side wins. We didn't quite get enough pressure to crack this case, but we almost did."

This Randolph, head of a union of negro workingmen, is saying that trial by jury should be abolished and that "heads of government" should exercise its "function". His conclusion inevitably would be that in the event of the failure of state executives to succumb to "pressure", the "function" should be transferred to the head of government, namely, the president.

He is saying that the pressure to reverse the verdict of a jury of a state should be brought from beyond and without the state. It will be remembered that in the "pressure" to "crack the Waller case", William Green, president of the A. F. of L., and John L. Lewis, of the C. I. O., joined. Nearly all the "pressure" was brought from other than Virginians, and it was exerted despite that the supreme court of the United States refused to order a new trial for Waller.

These people make much of Virginia's requirement that persons pay poll taxes ($1.50) to qualify for jury service. Massachusetts has had qualifications for voting and other acts pertaining to government more than a century. Rhode Island has had them. Northern states have them now.

Shall trial by jury be abolished and its office be shifted to governors or the president?

Shall the forty-eight American states be deprived of power to define and fix by law requirements for suffrage and jury service?

Shall the forty-eight American states be abolished?

Shall "pressure" be substituted for law and courts?

Shall the "liberals" govern the United States by a president of their choice who shall have the power over life and death, as an absolute monarch has it?

In the last forty days two white men, one of whom was unarmed, have been killed by negroes in South Carolina. There has been no talk or hint of lynching. At last accounts, the slayers of one of the men, a law officer, have not been arrested. Will people, foreign to South Carolina, who are incessantly condemning lynching (there has been no lynching in South Carolina in a dozen years) bring pressure to "crack the cases" in the courts when and after the accused negroes shall be brought to trial?

If they shall succeed in abolishing juries and courts with their "pressure", they will revive lynching. Their efforts will have, in result, if not by design, the renewal of lynching. They are poisoning the ruffian mind. They are this day instigating lynchers, and of all people in the United States they are the most dangerous, the most malignant enemies of the negroes whom the Southern courts, most of the Southern press and the decent Southern people have striven to protect by law.

The News and Courier demands justice for negroes, in all fields. It demands separation of the races, and that separation is what Northern negroes and their white champions oppose. The greatest peril to the Southern negroes is from their foreign "friends". It is a peril real and growing.

Grove Hill Ala.
Democrat
June 30, 1942

So far as we know, there has never been but one lynching in Clarke County. It occurred shortly after the last World War and was the direct outgrowth of just such agitation as is now being stirred up by a few radicals of both races. It is unfortunate that professional agitators and theoretical reformers will sieze upon a time like this to create friction between the races or to try to force their theories upon the whites of the South. Clarke County is proud of the splendid racial relations which exist here and it is to be hoped that the level headed counselors of both races will permit nothing to occur which will disturb this condition.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
July 16, 1942

Nazi-Texan-Lynchers

In Texas the other day a mob of Nazis hanged a negro without trial—we call them "Nazis" because they behaved exactly in the manner of Nazis when they lynch Czechoslovakians and Poles. The only difference between the Nazi lynchers and this mob in Texas is that the Nazis have introduced mass production of corpses.

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SOUTHERN

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Gadsden Ala. Times
October 16, 1942

They, Too, Are Guilty

The lynching of two colored youths in Clarke County, Mississippi for a criminal attack upon a young white girl, is deeply unfortunate and Mississippi will receive much severe denunciation for the outbreak of lawlessness. Meanwhile much of this denunciatory material will come from persons who share in the guilt of the youths who committed the brutal attack.

For months now a group of hair-brained fanatics has been at work upon a systematic campaign to bring about racial equality in the South and they have been enabled to enlist the most powerful support.

Numerous magazines of great influence have been enticed into giving much space to this subject and have utilized many photographs in trying to help the movement along, including photographs of persons of great prominence in Washington as they mingled with colored persons. Colored women have been shown modeling fashionable garments for women, and there has been continuing stress upon the claim that racial distinctions in the South are hurtful to the war effort because of the influence on Indians, Africans and other far peoples. The sum of the whole campaign has been to prove that there should be no lines of division among the races; that one is as good as another.

All of this poisonous propaganda has undoubtedly had the effect of putting false and dangerous notions in the minds of many thoughtless colored youths, as well as the more reckless type of men, and to such influences may be traced the crimes of the Mississippi youths who paid with their lives for a hideous attack upon a young white girl.

It is precisely the same kind of insidious influence that caused some misguided colored soldiers to "shoot up" Flagstaff, Arizona, recently because they were refused admission to a night club that was for white persons. They had heard from Washington that they were as good as anybody and were entitled to mix and mingle as they desired, and trying to carry out this theory one was killed and another was wounded as the police quelled the riot their action caused.

Southern leaders among the colored population know the evils that spring from the form of propaganda that now is being so widely exploited and are almost solidly against it. They wish to live in peace with their white neighbors and are perfectly satisfied with the social arrangements that now exist and which have existed for so long.

However, the attitude of these wise leaders among Southern Negroes strikes no responsive chord among the politically-minded in the North. They are determined to put over racial equality, no matter how many lives of Southern Negroes may be sacrificed in the process, and it is going to require much more sound sense in the North than has yet been displayed to bring the dangerous movement to a close.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
October 14, 1942

A Shameful Abuse

In Clarke County, Miss., an "unidentified" group of men Monday took two 14-year-old Negro boys from the Quitman jail and hung them from a bridge. The boys had pleaded guilty to charges of criminal attack on a 13-year-old white girl.

This double lynching was a shameful violation of the law, horrible as was the inciting crime. It was an act committed without regard to true justice. It was a cowardly act by men who had, they proved by their actions, no respect for the laws of their state. The whole South is shamed again.

Gov. Paul Johnson, of Mississippi, has said that he will do everything in his power to bring to justice the men who committed these two murders. "Such acts," he said, "are spots upon the good name of Mississippi and the better class of people here condemn this wrong."

All Southerners who believe in justice under law—that for which this nation and others now fight—will fervently hope that the guilty men are apprehended and punished.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
October 16, 1942

BAIT FOR PROPAGANDA

No punishment has been given members of a mob which lynched two fourteen-year-old Negro boys at Quitman, Mississippi, early Monday morning for "attempted criminal assault."

That particular region has had six lynchings and the officers of the law ought by this time to know something about preparing against them.

Members of the lynching group had no trouble "overpowering" the jail force, which did not have a scratch to show that it had fought and bled in defense of its duty.

German propagandists will use this lynching all over the world with their usual myopic failure to recognize that the Quitman violence was as perfect a piece of Naziism, both in its execution and in its motives, as Himmler's hatchet men could perpetrate. German propagandists will use the lynchings especially to further divide American people. They will say Mississippi's lynching record of 103 in the last twenty-two years is an instance of the hypocrisy of a democracy which pretends to fight for "trial by jury."

Quitman's lynchings cause us to worry less, however, about the fifth column which is financed by Nazi money than about the most dangerous fifth column America has to contend with—the fifth column which is based on our own blind ignorance and the undermining and sabotaging of our courts of justice. Is the Quitman lynching a part of the "democracy" which Representative Rankin of Mississippi accused Congressman Kefauver of Tennessee of tearing down, in his vote for the Geyer anti-poll tax bill?

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
October 20, 1942

THREE IN A WEEK

Mississippi's third lynching within a week occurred early Saturday morning. Two fourteen-year-old Negroes were hanged to a bridge at Quitman Monday. In the Saturday lynching at Laurel, Mississippi, Howard Wash, Negro, had been convicted of the murder of Clint Welborn, dairyman. The jury reported inability to agree on the punishment and the Negro faced a sentence of life imprisonment. A mob surrounded the jail at one o'clock Saturday morning. The sheriff, three deputies and the jailer were "shoved aside." The Negro was taken to a bridge over a creek and hanged.

Although the officers of the law say that there were about one hundred men in the mob, those officers claimed to be unable to recognize any of the lynchers.

Governor Paul B. Johnson had ordered two detachments of the Mississippi State Guard to the scene, but they arrived too late.

Nearly a week previously, according to Chief Deputy Lester Welch, a group of three men had come to him and had asked for the prisoner, but he refused to give him up.

The Negro had been employed eight years by the late Mr. Welborn. Wash testified that when he arrived late for work last May 18, Mr. Welborn came at him with a shovel. Wash said he threw up a heavy milk bucket to ward off the blow and that the bucket hit Mr. Welborn, causing the injuries from which he died two days later.

"I am so upset over what took place Saturday," Governor Johnson was quoted as saying, "that I could not sleep, but I am pledging anew that I am going to use the full influence of the governor's office to see that those who committed both of these crimes are prosecuted."

He dispatched a personal "investigator" to the scene.

That investigator will find that none of the sheriff's officers bears any wounds from being "shoved aside." He will find that the sheriff's force cannot name a single one of the lynchers, although the mob numbered nearly one hundred men from that neighborhood.

This investigator will find that although, a week previously, three men had demanded the prisoner, no steps were taken to move him to a place of safekeeping.

The investigator will find that the mob condemned the Negro to death before he was tried by the jury which refused to condemn him to death. In short, the investigator will see that for the second time within a week Naziism as practiced in Mississippi has outraged the American system of justice, for which four million of the flower of American youth are marching out to fight, and, if need be, to die.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
October 22, 1942

Where The Fault Lies

In one short week three Negroes have been lynched in Mississippi in an outbreak of racial feeling and mob violence which has no equal in the South in recent years. These lynchings are a disgrace to the people of Mississippi and have blackened the hard-won records of progress and enlightenment which the South has made in improving relations between the races.

Even though the war emergency has been shrewdly used by busybodies who are close to the nation's leadership to force social and political changes which have resulted in strained racial relations and an intensification of prejudices and hatreds, there can be no justification or excuse for the use of mob violence. Nor do we believe that the intelligent citizens of Mississippi will be content until the participants in these barbaristic acts have been apprehended and convicted.

Two of the Negroes who were lynched were youths of 14 who had confessed to criminally assaulting a young white girl; the other victim had already been tried and found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of a white man.

Having already been tried and convicted, the murderer had undoubtedly been assessed adequate and just punishment by the courts of the State. But the mobsters were spurred to take the law into their own hands because of the foul act of the two young Negroes. As for the mob that lynched the young white girl's assailants, it too, knew full well that the courts would deal swiftly and efficiently if they were given a chance. Reason did not prevail or there would have been no mob in either case.

But hideous and repulsive as are the crimes of these mobsters, their acts were nothing more than surface indications of a deep-rooted resentment which has swept over the South in recent months and which well may yet cause serious trouble. That resentment, which the mobsters shamelessly took out on their victims, comes as a result of the treatment which has been accorded the South by scatter-brained reformers who are trying to bring about a social revolution and destroy racial barriers. Their act was an ignorant and criminal effort to convince the meddlers that the federal government, powerful though it be, is not yet strong enough to force upon the South a social equality which it knows to be unwise and under which the South could not exist.

Unless the powers that be can prevail on Mrs. Roosevelt and all the others who advocate an amalgamation of the races—under the guise of equality of opportunity and political freedom—can be deterred from continuing to aggravate the situation with ill-considered speeches reflecting a dangerous lack of understanding of the South's problem, all of the progress of the last decade will be wiped out. And if they persist in their present course responsibility for an outbreak of lawlessness and crime such as the nation has not seen since Reconstruction will rest upon their heads and theirs alone.

Albany Decatur, Ala. Daily
October 20, 1942

UNITY ASKED BY GOVERNOR

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 20—(AP)—Mississippi's mob violence problem appeared to be headed toward possible national rather than sectional significance today, following a warning by Governor Paul Johnson that "disturbing elements . . aiding the Axis" may have caused "unrest" that resulted in the lynching last week of three Negroes.

The lynchings came at a time when Rep. Rankin (D.-Miss.) was warning the national house of representatives that their action in voting to void the poll tax requirements of some southern states for federal elections might result in violence.

Before Governor Johnson issued his warning and a plea to both white and Negro citizens for "unity . . and patriotism", he had received a letter from the Workers Defense League charging that persons who particiapted in the lynchings are guilty "of acts more harmful to the nation than the worst case of industrial sabotage ever reported," and urging action by the Governor, President Roosevelt and Attorney General Biddle.

Later Monday, a grand jury in Laurel, Miss., called into special session Saturday to investigate the lynching of a Negro, was discharged by the judge after submitting a final report which did not even mention the lynching.

Other developments included the unsuccessful search for another Negro, accused of shooting to death a sheriff who had attempted to arrest him on a liquor charge, and the adoption by the Baptist Ministers Association of Southeast Mississippi, in session at Laurel, of a resolution deploring "the fact that the majesty of the law of God and man is being discounted."

In nearby Shreveport, La., meanwhile, a jury deliberated two and a half minutes before finding an 18-year-old Negro guilty of a charge of aggravated rape on a nine-year-old Shreveport girl last September 29—a verdict carrying with it a mandatory sentence of death in the electric chair.

The Negro lynched near Laurel, Howard Wash, had been convicted of killing his employer, Clint Wilborn, dairyman and farmer, last May 8 and was facing a sentence of life imprisonment. The other two, Charlie Lang and Ernest Green, Negro youths of 14, were taken from the Quitman jail after they had entered pleas of guilty to charges of attempted rape of a 13-year-old girl.

Spartanburg S.C.
Herald
Oct 21, 1942

Mississippi Mobs

If Representative Rankin of Mississippi can feel any satisfaction over three lynchings in his state in one week, he is welcome to it. His utterances in Congress have tended to arouse racial friction and, whether or not he is in any way responsible for the lynchings, the fact is that his state must suffer in the opinion of all law-abiding persons.

The crimes that caused the lynchings cannot be defended, but the administration of justice by mob law, the disregard of the rights of the juries and the courts by little groups of men actuated by hatred, is to be severely condemned. The crimes committed by the lynchers are in no way less to be censured and punished than those of their victims.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
October 22, 1942

Serving Nation's Enemies

Some time ago, in observing the antics of the racial equality zealots in Washington and elsewhere, Congressman Joe Starnes, vice-chairman of the Dies Committee on Un-American Activities, declared that these persons were "serving the Axis powers," and current events prove the soundness of his conclusion.

Activities of these race-mad zealots has resulted not only in the creation of unfortunate divisions and harmful friction in the South but actually have caused an increase in the number of crimes that are likely to lead to lynchings.

Three recent lynchings in Mississippi alone prove the point. The antics of the race-mad equality zealots almost certainly served to provoke the commission of the crimes against white persons that led to the lynchings, and the blood is upon the heads of those who incited the troubles in the first place.

These persons gave enemy agents in this country their opportunity to stir up strife, disobedience of law and contempt for white supremacy, and thus the interests of Germany and Japan were served.

That the original bunch of zealots may have meant well one may concede, but as they have gone along their disturbing course they have brought into their ranks sinister elements whose interest is in serving the enemies of the United States, and it is time for the will-intentioned among them to awaken. They have chosen a poor time to try to put over an impossible social scheme and the quicker they cease their activities the better off the Negro will be and the better off the country will be. They are creators of conditions that play directly into the hands of the enemies of this nation, as Mr. Starnes has so aptly stated.

Birmingham, Ala. News
January 26, 1942

The Foe At Home

High among the purposes for which we fight this war is the aim to create a world where racial differences may be adjusted in peace and where intolerance may be minimized. It is for that reason that we resist with arms the military enterprises of nations that think themselves superior. We want a world where all nations and all peoples may be enabled to cultivate unhindered their strong points and make in peace and dignity their contributions to a common civilization.

The battle lines of that war, no matter how far distant they may range, begin at home. It is here that we fight, too, for tolerance and understanding, and no victory will be complete unless we win also the battle here at home.

A skirmish of that battle was lost when a mob in Missouri took a Negro from jail, dragged him behind a car through the streets and then set the body afire. In that submission to blind intolerance and prejudice the cause of peace was set back. It is harder now in good conscience to wage a war in defense of our way of life.

We read reports of the atrocities committed by Germans against the people they have conquered, and our hearts boil within us. We read of the arrogant treatment given by the Japanese to conquered Chinese and Filipinos, and we vow that people like these shall not be permitted to dominate the earth. And then when we read of this Missouri mob that was not willing to trust lawful procedures to administer justice, we realize anew that in the battle against injustice and intolerance and cruelty some of the fighting must be done here at home.

There is, amid the shame and the blackness, one comforting thought. Actions like those of the Missouri mob definitely are contrary to the abiding ideas of the American people. The great mass of public opinion condemns lynching. Such lawlessness is without excuse and without support save among the base and the unthinking.

It does not matter what the Negro's crime was. The law has a just and adequate remedy for every crime. Only last week at Kilby Prison there was executed a Negro convicted of a heinous attack upon a crippled white woman. It was a crime that burned deep into the indignation and sensibilities of Southern white people. But that Negro was given an orderly trial. Alabama's record of justice was unblackened. As much could have been said of this Missouri case had not a mob been permitted to wreak its blind rage upon a wounded and helpless victim.

Emotions run high in time of war. Human life sometimes seems cheap. But the American men selling their lives in the Philippines for the honor of their country are dishonored by fellow-countrymen at home who sell honor along with a life. Lynchers today are little different from fifth columnists. In many respects they are worse.

Birmingham Ala News
February 1, 1942

Recollections

BY EMMET R. CALHOUN

Early one morning in 1895 or 1896 the citizenry of Carrollton, Ala., awoke to find a military company from Tuscaloosa surrounding the county jail and soldiers patroling the town square. This was a great surprise to practically everyone of the town's people. Some few days before a young Negro of 14 or 15 years of age had been arrested and jailed at Carrollton for molesting a small white girl of the Reform community. While naturally there had been talk of lynching, as generally was in such cases, the fact is there was no particular excitement, and considering the youth of the offender, there was but little attention paid to the possibility of a lynching. Notwithstanding, the governor—I think it was William C. Oates—ordered a Tuscaloosa militia company to Carrollton. The company was the Warrior Guards, commanded by Bill Brandon, later to be governor himself, and when I interviewed him he readily admitted that from his observations the militia was unnecessary.

* * *

Capt. Brandon said he had been ordered to bring his company to Carrollton as there was a threatened lynching. I told him that because our town was rural and off the railroads it did not signify that we were barbarians and were opposed to law and order. I also told him that if the matter had been one that involved a real case of rape that it would have been "settled" before he could have mobilized his company. This was my first meeting with Bill Brandon and also it was my first meeting with Tom Garner, for many years now director of the glee clubs of the University of Alabama, who was a member of Bill Brandon's company on its visit to Carrollton, and who also was of opinion the militia company's trip was unnecessary. The company remained in our town about 12 hours and then departed, with good feeling all around. At session of Circuit Court some weeks later the case of the Negro came up. Judge Sprott appointed the law firm of Owen & Fulghum to defend. They were new lawyers in Carrollton. The Negro was convicted and duly hanged in the county jail.

Suffolk, Va., News-Herald
February 3, 1942

DRAGON SEED FOR 1942

The right of fair trial is one of the most cherished Anglo-Saxon institutions which the United States is defending against the attacks of the Axis aggressors. We entered World War II with a sheet that had grown far cleaner on the score of lynching, than was the corresponding page of 20-odd years ago. Tuskegee Institute reported only four lynchings in the United States during 1941, while in 19 instances officers of the law prevented mob violence.

The year 1942 gets off to a bad start with the savage lynching at Sikeston, Mo. There, a mob took from jail a wounded Negro who was suspected of having attempted to attack a soldiers wife, stuffed him into the trunk of an automobile, carried him to the colored residential section of the town where he was dragged through the streets, and then set his body on fire after soaking it with gasoline. The lynching mob's first blood of 1942 was peculiarly revolting. The story of its vengeance reads like an episode in a Chinese village conquered by the Japanese.

Whenever a mob on the warpath successfully storms a jail, the dragon seed have been sown again. Again, States must be more careful than ever in their efforts to reinforce local justice, where it is likely to give way under stress. Governors should realize now, that difficult times are ahead in race relations, and if we are to improve the record, more vigilance than ever is necessary.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
January 30 1942

LOW LYNCH LEVEL

How is America progressing in the realm of "lynch law?" Four lynchings were recorded during 1941, the annual announcement of Tuskegee Institute says, compared with five in 1940, three in 1939, six in 1938 and eight in 1937. Last year's crimes were in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. In 19 instances peace officers prevented threatened lynchings.

Four lynchings are four too many, and a disgrace to the States in which they occurred. But the number does not justify a Federal anti-lynching law. The crime is a disappearing one and there is no reason to believe Federal interference would hasten its decline.—Los Angeles Times.

Kansas City. Call
Kansas City, Mo.

A Lesson for Missouri

FEB 27 1942

Whether the judicial district in which Sikeston is located will convict the lynchers there can be told only after the trial is over. In the event they go free, they cannot be put in jeopardy a second time. That is the law.

Experience gives small hope of conviction in any crime where many are involved. That fact is summed up in the saying "You can't indict a community." With Negroes reluctant to identify lynchers and the well known commercial and social forces making whites keep still, the outcome looks like an easy guess.

FEB 27 1942

Though conviction be not gotten in this case, the state should learn from it just the same. In the first place, it has in the alleged crime proof that something was wrong before the lynching. Southeast Missouri for a quarter of a century has kept Missouri's governors busy, and a few years ago its maladjustments brought national attention. Southeast Missouri is a section where one newspaper dares to say that lynching should not be punished, and another paper publishes the picture of a Negro owned automobile to prove that employer-employe relations are O.K. At the same time schools for Negroes are

of a much lower standard than those the same districts maintain for whites.

Missouri should learn from this lynching some way to stop the next. The state simply cannot stand the shame of mob rule. Granted that the lynchers are few, their crime is so horrible that the rest of the world must scorn Missourians for enduring their presence.

FEB 27 1942

The mob killer must be told that his own life is the price of the one he helps to take. Onlookers' moral support of the mob's beastiality must be punished too. Where now it is taken for granted by lynchers that nothing is going to be done, they should know before hand that if they lynch, they will be punished. Surely the law which is so efficient in the case of minor crimes, can punish lynching which is a blow at law and order as well as death to a fellow creature.

Christian Index
Jackson, Tennessee

THE SIKESTON LYNCHING

FEB 12 1942

IN the lynching of Cleo Wright last month, Sikeston, Missouri leads off this year in the practice of this purely American Institution. The conscience of all self-respecting citizens are horrified at the outrage committed in this disgraceful occurence, and the state of Missouri has been given the unenviable distinction of being the first to have a lynching in 1942.

Governor Donnell acted with promptness in asking the authorities to take action. The State of Missouri supported his request because it has in it many white citizens who in spite of their race prejudice, would be too humane to kill a human being and drag his body through the streets in the presence of the members of a race who were not responsible for his misdeeds and then burn his body. And this brutal affair taking place in front of a Church while Divine Worship was being conducted.

It is hardly conceivable that the citizens of a nation who has but recently been drawn into a bloody war by the dastardly acts committed at Pearl Harbor less than sixty days before could have committed such an act of lynching. As much as we deplore and condemn the crime charged, that crime as reported, does not sink beneath the surface when compared to the depths to which this act of retaliation sinks in the estimation of all rightful thinking and fair minded persons.

FEB 12 1942

Well, we do realize that Japan and her Axis associates are not safe, nor is one's life valued where lynching can occur. Although this is the first lynching of the year, one must recognize the fact that as long as the black margin of such crime surrounds our civilized society it is not safe. From this individual case of lynching we know the true condition of the society that lies about it. It must be admitted that in the land of "Judge Lynch," there is still a boundary line about us beyond which if a man steps he will pass into the most aggravated form of barbarism.

Albany-Decatur, Ala Daily
October 19, 1942

MOB VIOLENCE

Governor Johnson, of Mississippi, has acted wisely and promptly in calling upon two companies of state militia to preserve order in a community where a grand jury investigation is underway into a lynching.

The case marked the third lynching in Mississippi within a week, all of the victims being Negroes.

It is unfortunate that tragedy should be piling upon tragedy in Mississippi and Governor Johnson does well to take stern measures to stop the violence.

At the same time, those social reformers who are taking such an active part in fanning the flames of racial hatreds also would do well to pause and consider into what depths their course is taking this country.

To Governor Johnson, The Daily would like to say: "Felicitations upon acting to preserve the honor and integrity of your state; felicitations upon your prompt and stern action to stop the outbreaks of lawlessness which are a blot upon the fair name of your state. Success to you in your efforts."

To those self-seeking politicians who are willing to sell their souls for political profit, The Daily would say: "Sow not the seeds of discord lest you reap a harvest of passionate hatreds. Stop your tragic efforts before it is too late."

BETRAYAL THAT PAYS

(Charleston News and Courier)

In a magazine is a story of the trial of a negro in a Southern state, by a Southern journalist, and the impression is carried that the poor negro was "railroaded" to his death by a Southern jury. Without that characteristic, would it have been bought by the magazine?

The plot of a novel turns on the lynching of a negro. The details are ghastly. The lynching was, of course, in a Southern state. Otherwise, would the Southern writer have found a publisher for it?

In the memory of the writer of these words a sick or wounded negro was dragged from a hospital in a Northern city and lynched, and the scene was Pennsylvania, not far from its metropolis. No one has "fictionalized" that tragedy. In Wilmington, Delaware, a negro was taken from prison and lynched. It is well to forget it.

North of the Ohio river, in a dozen towns or cities of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, where the waves of black and white races meet, where white workers have thought themselves threatened by negro competition, negroes have been lynched since the turn of the century. The northern bank of that river has been a "lynching belt," and mark, the mobs were city mobs.

In two or three Springfields, of the Middle West, have been lynchings of negroes, and in one of them, the home of Abraham Lincoln, was a bloody race riot about thirty-six years ago.

When, ever, in the South, was the carnage so great and bloody as in Chicago's race riot?

In the last quarter century have been lynchings in Kansas City, Kansas, Duluth, Minnesota, and Omaha, Nebraska.

In proportion to the numbers of their negro population it is, we believe, safe to assert, that more negroes have been lynched in the Midwestern states than in Southern states—certainly if one search the records of two and a half decades ago.

"But it was in the long past," one reports. Perhaps so—it was in the years between 1900 and 1925. Twelve years have passed since a man was lynched in South Carolina. In the more recent years have been race riots, or near race riots, in New York City, in other cities of Eastern states.

In South Carolina has been no race riot since 1898.

In this year, 1942, we have in the "literary" magazines, and from the Northern publishers of novels, short stories and long, tending to the conclusion that lynching is the peculiar characteristic and monopoly of life in Southern states, and most of them are the product of Southern writers.

They can sell those stories in the North.

No one abhors lynching, whether by a mob of Nazis, who lynch a whole village or by a mob of cowardly and passion - crazed American ruffians, than does The News and Courier. More than sixty-five years it has denounced lynchers. We remember that one of its staff, Narcisso Gener Gonzales, exposed his life by visiting the scene of negro murders and printing names. Nor was he by any means the one Southern newspaper man who denounced lynchers when it was more dangerous than it is now—in the years following "Reconstruction."

In South Carolina a white sheriff gave his life in defense of a negro accused of the most heinous crime.

The sheriff of another county braved a mob of 1,500 after they had dynamited the gate of his jail and saved his prisoner.

In another, a brave old sheriff protected his man by hiding him in a loft while thousands surged below. He saved his prisoner. Not all the sheriffs, but many a sheriff in South Carolina has saved prisoners from mobs, and their deeds have in some cases been heroic.

Prichard, Ala., Journal
August 6, 1942

How 'Lynch' Law Got That Name

"Lynch Law" gets its name from Judge Lynch, of Virginia, who flourished about 1850. It started, not against negroes in the South, but against desperadoes in the "Wild" West, when ordered government could not keep pace with the drive of the American pioneers.

Anderson, S. C., Independent Trib.
January 4, 1942

We frown on lynching, but there should be a little neck-stretching for swindlers who operate in the name of patriotism.

Birmingham, Ala. News
February 12, 1942

Voice Of The People

Letters are invited and welcomed. Writing should be on one side of the paper and should not exceed 300 words. Anonymous communications will not be printed and letters unaccompanied by self-addressed, stamped envelope will not be returned. The News reserves the right to shorten letters of excessive length.

A NEGRO YOUTH'S VIEW

To the Editor The News:

Yes, remember Pearl Harbor, but in the meantime let's remember Sikeston, Mo., and its recent lynching of Cleo Wright, a Negro. We have courts in which to try and convict criminals, or to free the falsely accused and our courts must be respected. In this case they were not.

The lynching of this man was as beastly and vicious as any act ever conceived by the Nazi mind.

When I read of this atrocity I asked myself one question: For what price would a man sell his life? I am a Negro boy, 20, subject to draft this month. I am willing to give my life that democracy may in the future be practiced as it is preached. BURL MATTHEWS, JR.

Birmingham.

* * *

THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE ON MOVING

To the Editor The News:

Your editorial captioned "Of Doubtful Wisdom," appearing in Sunday's News-Age-Herald, was in my opinion timely, and for those believing in the true principles of democracy the said editorial was unanswerable. Your editorial and the letter of Fred H. Layton, appearing in the "Voice of the People" column of the same issue, are to be highly commended.

Both articles expose and at the same time condemn this totalitarian ordinance prepared and being pressed for passage by the furniture dealers of our city, who I am sure are good Americans, but in this instance they have, for the moment, let their selfish interest overshadow their otherwise true conception of our democratic ideals, which by eternal vigilance we should ever be on the alert to preserve, not destroy.

It is to be hoped that our trusted city officials will be governed accordingly and consign this proposed ordinance to the fate it deserves.

"Not greed for empire or lust for power
Hath brought us here to see this hour.
The slow persuasion of the just
Hath led us on, and so it must.
We'll beat the drums and blow the fife,
For our mission is not death, but life!"

102 Oglesby Avenue. J. BURTON HOLT

PILLAR ROSES

In the magazine section of The Birmingham News-Age-Herald of Sunday, Feb. 8, Ann Norton had a very interesting article about pillar roses, which are far superior, in strength and blooming, and are more lasting, than the bush forms.

She mentioned, among others, the Staechelin, or Spanish Beauty. It is indeed a beauty, of iridescent pink inside, splashed with red on the outside, with long cutting stems. Anyone who has ever seen it, with maybe 40 or 50 blooms open at once, knows what it is, though at times it is hard to get the genuine.

The "climbing" (pillar) Red Radiance is darker, more pointed and better than the bush—a great bloomer. Likely the "climbing pink" is likewise.

The "climbing" Talisman is strong, gorgeous, has fine cutting stems, and last year, at times, the writer would cut from 20 to 25 blooms from one plant. The "climbing" Hoover is a bit darker, with splendid cutting stems, but not so many flowers as the Talisman.

I have not found the "climbing" Luxembourg to be so strong. The climbing white Victoria is pretty, but as a white pillar rose I prefer the white American Beauty (Mrs. Druschki) used on a frame, and growing to eight or 10 feet, if allowed, instead of being used as a bush rose. It is the whitest of all roses.

Among others, the writer is now experimenting with the "climbing" Hollande, which will bloom in full this year; the climbing Sunburst and the Jacotte. When it comes to frequent blooming, fine stems and its ability to last a week after cutting, it would be hard to excel, or equal, the climbing Francis Scott Key, with its 95 petals which curl backward. To be appreciated fully, it must be seen.

It would hardly be necessary to mention the glowing Paul's Scarlet—with maybe about 300 blooms open at once. If trained to a stake, the pillar roses require only about as much space as the bush forms, but it is better for them to be more spread out, to get the full sunlight.

Midway, Ala. JAMES M. GL[illegible]

Birmingham, Ala., Labor Advocate
January 3, 1942

1941 Lynchings

December 30, 1941

Editor Labor Advocate:

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1941. I find, according to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were 4 persons lynched in 1941. This is 1 less than the number 5 for the year 1940, 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for the year 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail.

There were 19 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a northern state and 18 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 18 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total number of 21 persons—1 white man and 20 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 1; suspected of stealing, 1; altercation with white man, 1; working on job from which whites had been discharged, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; North Carolina, 1; South Cadolina, 1.

Very truly yours,
F. D. Patterson,
President Tuskegee Institute.

Morganton, N. C., News-Herald
January 16, 1942

TWO LYNCHING GOALS

(News and Observer)

The annual report of the Tuskegee Institute on lynchings in 1941 will seem less important than usual because of the overshadowing events of the war. But the report is important in that it indicates two easily obtainable goals for 1942: one is the complete eradication of lynching in the United States, and the other is re-establishment of the unquestioned accuracy of the reports of the Tuskegee Institute.

Unfortunately, the 1941 figures, showing four lynchings in 1941 as compared with five in 1940 and the all-time low record of three in 1939 are open to serious question. North Carolina, which in recent years has been accredited with few lynchings, is recorded as the scene of one of four lynchings listed by the Tuskegee Institute. That so-called lynching, the killing of a Negro by white men in Gaston county last April, was the result of a private quarrel and did not fall within any of the accepted definitions of a lynching. Moreover, each of the white men involved in the killing is now serving a long prison term. If the affair in North Carolina was in fact a lynching, North Carolina should have given credit for being the first state in history to imprison all of those involved in a lynching. Instead, the State has been heralded to the world as one of four upon which the crime of lynching cast a blot in 1941, the other three states being Florida, Georgia and Alabama.

The News and Observer has no positive information concerning what occurred in the other three states, but The News and Observer does know that the inclusion of North Carolina was a gross inaccuracy, such a gross inaccuracy as to throw a question mark upon all the figures compiled on the subject. Unless such statistics are accurate they are obviously valueless.

But lynching can be eradicated. The 1941 figures show that conclusively. There was no lynching during 1941 in Mississippi, which leads the country in the number of lynchings, having had 571 reported since 1882 as compared with 99 for North Carolina. What was done in 1941 in Mississippi can be done in 1942 in every state. This year would be a peculiarly appropriate one for complete eradication of the crime of lynching. The nation is at war and it is no time for Americans to be killing each other. Moreover, the Negro race, against which the crime of lynching is generally directed, has given such a splendid demonstration of unquestioned loyalty in this crisis that the least the dominant race should do in appreciation is to see to it that every Negro charged with crime be given a fair trial which constitute one of the most precious rights which the nation is seeking to preserve.

Camden, Ala., Era
February 26, 1942

An Appreciation

Judge Reginald Albritton, Probate Judge of Wilcox County, Alabama passed away in a Selma hospital Tuesday morning at 2 A. M., result of an auto accident or collision with a truck about 7 o'clock in the evening, the light blinding him—His car was de-

and cut.

He was taken to the hospital where all that medical science could possibly do was done for him.

Judge Albritton was reared and educated in Camden and his home town mourns him as do many other communities for he was prominent and honored because he was once sheriff and deputy sheriff of Wilcox County and was widely known. So since arriving at young manhood he has been respected and honored as few young men have been.

He was kind, true, faithful. He was an exemplary and leading citizen, a faithful friend in sickness or in health and was ever ready, willing and glad to serve his fellowman.

His years of sheriff service were years of good feeling. There were no serious crime of lynchings except the shooting of his deputy and the murderer was brought to justice. From youth to manhood it was his delight to serve his county and state.

He married Miss Dolly Young of Greensboro, a young lady of education, culture, and refinement who did all in her power to farther his aspirations. He counted his friends by the score and was beloved by all and was ever accommodating. He was a devoted husband, a devoted father, having two bright, fine boys, Reginald, Jr. and Dan., He was also a model son of his mother, Mrs. G. L. Albritton. He leaves bereft, also an only sister, Mrs. Andrew Barnette of Florence and six fine brothers, Ollie and Sam of McMinville, Tenn., Lee, Dan, Will, Cifford, all of Camden and all outstanding business men. He leaves also several nieces and nephews and other relatives.

He was a World War No. 1 veteran, and experienced all the battles "over there."

His cordiality, his graciousness, his supreme thoughtfulness, will be missed by every one and he is truly regretted. He was diligent, in behalf of his friends who so often signally honored him. His funeral was from the Baptist church, was one of the largest ever witnessed in Camden and the flowers profuse lovely and beautiful expressed the great esteem in which he was held by myriads of friends from over the entire state. Rev. E. W. Roark was the officient. His untimely death leaves Wilcox county sorrowful and their deepest sympathy goes out to his family and mother, sister, aunts and other relatives.

A. C. F.

A friend of years standing who knew him well and who deplore his death.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
June 27, 1942

Remarks on Lynchers

When a mob in the United States seizes a helpless man, whether he be a guilty man or only a suspect, and without trial hang him to a tree, we call the members of the mob "lynchers". However great the crime of the victim be, it is not proved, and the slaughter of a defenseless man is cowardly. No one can escape the logic of that. The Nazis, who are a disciplined mob, exterminate the people of a village without trial, slaughtering the innocent and the guilty alike. Therefore, "lynchers" is the correct name for them. When these Nazis shoot down a dozen or a hundred men, and women, in France, in Norway, in Yugoslavia—mark you without trial, without giving them a hearing—of course they are lynchers, and yet they would think themselves much abused if they knew that they are so described in a civilized country. The News and Courier has no word of extenuation for lynchers in the United States or in Germany. The Nazis lynch in a month more victims than have been lynched in the United States in a century and know that ninety-nine in a hundred of them are innocent men and women. And again we say that lynchers are no better in our country than in Germany, though Americans have never lynched on the magnified scale of the Nazis.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
June 30, 1942

The Lynchers of Women

In Czechoslovakia when the Nazis lynched from 120 to 310 persons in Levzasaky the other day (they lynched the whole village), the women as well as the men were lynched. As lynchers the Nazis have surpassed all other bodies of criminals. Long ago we have heard of the lynching of a woman in the United States but never of more than one at a time. In Czechoslovakia the Nazis lynched fifty or sixty at one time. There is reason to hope that the Nazis are causing even the worst ruffians in this country to be ashamed of lynching.

The Lynching Of Negroes Help Hitler

Nothing has helped Hitler and the Japs in their fight to destroy democracy more than the brutal lynching of two Negroes since the beginning of the mighty conflict in this country on December 7, to save democracy. One of the Negroes lynched was lynched in Sikeston, Mo., where 10,000 persons witnessed his burning on the Sabbath day on the schoolhouse yard.

Last Monday, Texas joined that league of mobbery when a dying Negro was taken from a hospital, tied behind an automobile speeding through the streets of the city, and hanged by the neck in a gin yard. The Negro was a suspect in an attempted rape case. This lynching by seven or eight persons, took place at the very time when our government was giving seven saboteurs and German spies who had come to our shore, a fair trial under our laws despite their admitted intention of destroying our property and killing probably tens of thousands of our citizens, while this Negro, who was just a suspect of a crime, never had a chance to deny his guilt or to prove his innocence. This mob did not realize the fact that they were lynching democracy; they were lynching the very cause for which millions of our soldiers are dying. That is, that every citizen has the right to a trial by a jury.

This mob was helping Hitler, who is murdering the Jews, and boasts that he will soon spread terror to our land.

Our law enforcement agencies in Texas and in this nation should do everything in their power to bring to justice the guilty persons who committed this atrocious crime. Honest, liberty-loving citizens should not hesitate to speak out against this evil. They should forget that it was a Negro lynched, and see the acts as a boost and encouragement to Hitler and the Japs to continue their cruelty upon human beings throughout the world. They must remember that our enemies are skilled propaganda agents. They take advantage of every opening given them. They are saying now that democracy is an empty phase. Just look now how they lynch and burn Negroes in America, the arsenal of democracy! And in Asia, Africa; wherever they can plant the seed of doubt as to the sincerity of the United States and England, the agents of the Axis use lynching and the treatment of Negroes in America to prove that there is no democracy here; that democracy is only for those who can afford it, "The Thought."

The matter of lynching and fair treatment to citizens is of prime importance to America at war. LYNCHING MUST GO IF DEMOCRACY IS TO EXIST. We feel that the only way it will be destroyed is by the guilty parties being brought to justice and punished according to the law. Under our democratic form of government it matters not how serious the crime an individual commits, he has less chance of escaping punishment that any other people for he seldom has finance or political influence to help him to evade justice.

—From Negro Labor

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
October 23, 1942

WHEN FBI MOVES IN

The Department of Justice has intervened in the Mississippi lynching situation. Federal investigators are in the counties where three Negroes were lynched last week and Attorney-General Biddle declares: "Assuming the investigation develops a case, relentless prosecution will follow."

Governor Johnson of Mississippi says: "If the Federal Government acting within its constitutional powers can be of assistance to the State, I shall welcome any investigation which it wishes to make."

The federal intervention followed failure of grand juries to notice the lynchings in Mississippi. The federal prosecution may be sought under the Civil Liberties statute, which guarantees every person charged with a crime a trial by jury.

We may expect an outcry from many Southerners who will resent the sending of federal agents to investigate the crime of lynching in Southern States, but when a State refuses to take any action in such cases, the government may well answer that it has a duty to uphold the American system of justice. A better way would be for the States to do their duty.

Charlotte, N. C., Star of Zion
January 1, 1942

NEGRO LEADERSHIP MOVES NORTH

By JONATHAN DANIELS
In The Southern Frontier

In Gaston County, North Carolina, early this year three or four white hoodlums on a drunk got into a row with a Negro man. They went off and got guns and killed him. Justice moved promptly. The men were convicted and all of them sentenced to prison for long terms. Then suddenly, as it seemed to me, the case turned up in the lynching statistics. That seemed crazy to me. It seemed crazy to some Negro leaders in North Carolina. Here private murder, promptly punished by orderly justice, was called lynching. Of course, if it was a lynching the same people who called it one should have been the first to strike off a medal in honor of Gaston County which had promptly convicted and imprisoned every member of the "lynching mob." But the action stopped with what seemed to me the absurdity of stigmatiking the country and the State in the statistics.

Does Geography Determine Leadership?

Asking explanation, I was told that Northern Negro leaders who had been urging Federal anti-lynching legislation were unwilling to accept the statistics which showed the approach of disappearance of lynching in the South. Southern Negro leaders were unwilling to resist the demand for a definition which would tag mere killings as lynchings for fear of being denounced from north of the Mason & Dixon line as Uncle Toms or Handkerchief Heads. I may have been misinformed. But the case itself definitely seemed to be one in which lack of understanding of the facts seemed to so shape the statistics about lynchings as to reduce their effectiveness in the campaign against lynchings in the South. It made me wonder whether the most dynamic figures in the leadership of the Negro people have not ceased to be indigenous to the South and therefore unable to give the Negroes where most of the Negroes remain a leadership which will really help them where they are.

As the war spirit changes all things, this may be an important ear in race relations as in everything else. This year stands before war and such a time makes it easy to forget everything but war. Big changes in the life of the American Negro were set almost secretly into motion in 1915 and 1916 when a new pull was given to migration. Also in 1915 Booker T. Washington died. Undoubtedly some more hurried advocates of the Negro's advance might in these more hurried times regard him, if he still lived, as an Uncle Tom. Certainly as a man of the past, he would not be the man for the present. But it is easy for anybody to see that in the South then he represented a Southern Negro leadership which had things to say to the nation and which received a national hearing. I am not aware of any such Negro leadership in the South today.

Results of Absentee Leadership

Now sometimes it seems to me that, as Negro leadership has migrated North along with the migrating thousands of Negroes, the gradual but consistent result has been that almost every time the Negro has expanded his legal rights he has lost more of his economic opportunity. Like every other Southerner, I have seen Negroes pushed out of the jobs which once were thought to belong to them in the towns. As a Southerner, too, I am aware of the newer figures which show that he is also being pushed out of his place on the land. Sometimes it seems to me that the Negro's advance has moved largely into the [illegible] law, of logic and [illegible] declaration and out of the ac[illegible] lives of the great submerged majority of the colored people themselves. I wonder sometimes, as a white man honestly interested, if Negro leadership like some other things in the South has become increasingly absentee, and sometimes, as absentee, increasingly theoretical and impractical.

Progress May Be on Paper

This can be dismissed as a white man's opinion. I do not pretend to the knowledge about their leaders and their directions which educated Negroes inside and outside of the South should possess. It is, of course, undoubtedly true that the Negro in the North has a freedom of expression which makes it possible for him to speak for his race with a direct vigor which might be impossible in the Black Belt of Alabama. Certainly an able novelist may remain a Mississippi Negro even if he writes about Chicago and New York. Of course, a racal crusader in New York may still be the Georgia boy he was born. I know that every Negro in the North who seeks to protect and serve his people in the South may de well to ask for extremes, as some consider them, in the hope of getting a little for his people. It seems to me, nevertheless, that there is needed a Negro leadership in the South able to speak in it without fear that they will be denounced as Uncle Toms for facing the practical facts which confront and surround real people—even with the courage to face being called Uncle Tomse if necessary—in order that the Negro's progress may be among people and not merely on paper.

Where Is Leadership Leading?

It seems to me about time that white men and Negroes in the South and outside it, too, began to recognize the fact that the decline in lynchings in the South does not merely mean that Southern white people are becoming more [illegible]led. It means also that anger has gone out of race relationships and that with the anger affection has disappeared, too. The increasingly large urban Negro populations within the black ghettos of the South have meant a greater and greater separation of the white and Negro peoples of the South. New Justice in Washington is still a poor substitute for warm hearts at home. This certainly is not said to suggest that a return is indicated to the old master-slave relationship. It is said to suggest that no sensible human substitute for that old relationship has been found. The Negro advances to greater and greater legal rights at least in the decisions. But often they stay in the decisions and do not get to John Henry on Beale Street in Memphis where he has been loafing on the corner since he lost his place as tenant on the plantation and since his brother loafing beside him, lost his job to a white man in the town. Leading the Negro up from slavery and not merely down from slavery into an economic starvation surrounded by new theoretical freedoms, needs leadership where most of the

Norfolk, Va Pilot
January 27, 1942

Sadism in Missouri

In its sadistic manifestations, the lynching in Sikeston, Mo., of a Negro man named Cleo Wright is the worst in years. Here was a prisoner, charged with a terrible crime, it is true, who had already been shot three times by one of the officers who had arrested him and was already in jail and awaiting trial. If the reported evidence of his guilt is correct, he would almost certainly have paid in full for his crime.

Yet the mob which was hot for his blood tore him from the keepers of the jail, stuffed him in the trunk compartment of an automobile, drove him to the Negro section of this 8,000-population town, dragged him through the streets at the end of a rope fastened to a car, covered him with gasoline and burned him alive, if he was still alive after this torture. This kind of public torture manifests not only the passion for revenge but an almost perverted passion, disclosed on many another occasion in the earlier records of mob-murders but rarely displayed in recent years.

It is this latter aspect of the Sikeston lynching that, aside from the sheer horror of the event itself, is the most disquieting: this reversion to the satisfying of a mob's craving by a worse than animalistic torturing. It is particularly disturbing because the graphic curve of the lynching record showed a sharp jump in 1918 and 1919, the year of our greatest previous war effort, and the Sikeston lynching is placed before year following, and because the United Americans who profess to believe in States is moving now toward a period the elemental decencies, it is a danger in some respects comparable. The to be watched with especial care.

lynchings of 1918—64—nearly doubled those of 1917; and the lynchings of 1919, which numbered 83, were more than in any previous year since 1909 and far more than in any subsequent year.

There is no sure explanation of this wartime jump in those years, and there is, of course, no indication in the number of lynchings now that the country approaches another increase. Yet when such an exhibition in degeneracy as this

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

Lynching, an almost extinct practice in the South, has broken out again in Mississippi. But in view of all that the agitators of the black man against the white man and the white man against the black have been doing since the war began the wonder is not that there should be lynchings in the state with the nation's greatest percentage of Negro population but that there should not have been more than there have been. Lynching is murder. It would be better if we called it that more often, especially now that it is so isolated a thing that each instance stands out. The Mississippi murders should be made a signal, too, it seems to this column, for South-wide common sense against both the murders and the intensities that caused them.

THEY WROTE THE JOURNAL

Knoxville, Tenn. Journal
February 10, 1942

Three Deplore Lynching Of Negro In Missouri

Editor of The Knoxville Journal:

To the citizenry of Sikeston, Mo., in particular and the American public in general:

A few weeks ago we were shocked at the ruthless barbarian act of the Japanese in their unprovoked assault upon Pearl Harbor and the same was blazoned far and wide in the bitterest terms of condemnation. Such an act of savage aggression and inhuman treachery could hardly be given the condemnation that it rightly deserves. This wanton act has called forth to every American citizen the necessity of uniting and solidifying in one solid phalanx against such uncivilized action.

Yet, while every effort is being made to oppose such actions the world over, the American public was again shocked because of the atrocious inhuman, barbarian and uncivilized treatment a poor, defenseless Negro suspect received at the hands of an irate, blood-thirsty mob this week at Sikeston, Mo. The guilt of this man was never proven and the same is very doubtful. The mob acted upon its suspicions that the Negro was guilty of this supposed crime.

At a time like this when all races should be united regardless of creed or color, this shameful act was committed in this Missouri community. So many times a group of citizens will get together where a crime has been committed and grab the first Negro in sight and through the use of third degree methods make him confess to a crime that perhaps he is innocent of. Their homes are burned, women who may be caught on the street are slugged and the whole Negro element is forced to take to cover to save life and limb.

There are criminal elements in both races and laws are made to punish those who commit crimes against society. Regardless of what a community may think of a suspected individual where a crime has been committed, the suspected one should be allowed to present his case before a bar of justice. National enacted anti-lynch laws would soon make a mob think twice before dragging their often innocent victim off to his death.

The writers of this article do not condone the criminal element of any race, but we do feel one has a right to plead his own case until he is judged guilty or not guilty. America has never had any reason to doubt the sincerity of the Negro to his government and the Negro should not have to doubt the loyalty of his government to him.

The newspapers the nation over carried pictures of the mob who were blind with rage and insane anger, while a lifeless Negro's body was being charred to ashes, by flames of fire accelerated by gasoline. This act should call forth the bitterest condemnation on the part of our law enforcement officers and government as well as punish those responsible for this outbreak of mob violence. In this capacity immediate measures should be passed to prevent any such acts in the future.

How can we as Americans condone such conduct? How can our law enforcement agencies permit such when we need to unite as never before against every un-American and uncivilized act? Had a German or Japanese mob done such as was done in Missouri, no surprise would be voiced. But here in America, the home of the free and the brave, people should speak out to protect every citizen regardless of race, creed or color. At this time when the Negro is being called upon to help fight for democracy he should be given every protection that the law affords.

Just a few weeks ago in another city a Negro soldier dressed in the uniform of this country was forcibly ejected from a railway depot and was caused to miss his train, by the railway agent refusing to sell him a ticket. He would have missed the second train had not military police interceded in his behalf.

The time has come when we must stick together in facing all evils with the intention of correcting them. A group of white Methodist women of Nashville, Tenn., went on record as deploring what happened in the state of Missouri by sending Governor Darnell of that state a letter.

In conclusion, may we state in the name of all that is honorable, let every American citizen awake to the many inhumane and unfair acts that are suffered by its Negro citizens.

DR. J. H. PRESNELL.
DR. B. M. ALEXANDER.
REV. HOPPER.

Greenwood S C Index-Journal
February 4, 1942

"THE SERIOUS NEGRO PROBLEM"

From the News and Courier.

In South Carolina has been no lynching the last ten years, automobiles, highway police, quick communication and other factors have about put an end to lynching in this state, but scores and hundreds of negroes put one another to death in South Carolina every year. The intra-racial crimes of violence of the negroes are a serious problem, with which their Northern uplifters and pretended friends do not concern themselves.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
February 4, 1942

LYNCHING.

To the Editor: Please allow me space in your paper to reply to your editorial in January 30 edition of your paper, "More Reason Than Ever." Editorials of this nature are an incentive and an encouragement for Negroes to attack white women.

Why don't you devote your time and space to discourage the crime instead of condemning those who are trying to defend white women of your State? The defendant plead guilty to attempt assault and doubtless he would have accomplished his purpose if he had not been frustrated.

I am amazed at your editorial, and I am certain there are many more who share my feeling. I hope every person who was indicted for unlawful assembly in Roxboro will be acquitted.

We have enough white manhood in this country to protect white womanhood from brutes and we will protect them. I hope all will comprehend.

Just a few words of comment on your editorial in today's (Sunday's) issue of your paper, "Double Responsibility." This editorial refers to the Negro who was ordered to move his seat on a Raleigh bus and he responded by carving up the bus operator. For this serious offense he was fined $15—an encouragement for him to do a more complete job the next time.

J. W. STROUD.

Richmond.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.
OCT 21 1942

The Cause

Gov. Johnson, of Mississippi, Tuesday issued a statement concerning the situation in his state which resulted in the lynching of three Negroes last week. The governor said that "disturbing elements . . . aiding the Axis" may have caused "unrest" that resulted in the mob violence.

The governor said in part: "Left without outside influences, the citizens of Mississippi have lived happily together. There are some disturbing elements at work now which have in mind only one purpose, that of aiding the Axis powers. These influences are not working for the betterment of any one group of Mississippians, but seeking to create unrest and unhappiness among a once happy and united folk.

OCT 21 1942

"Because of reports of various movements, a feeling of unrest has been created, and it is not for the good of our people.

OCT 21 1942

We have great sympathy for Gov Johnson. It must, indeed, be shocking to have such evidences of disrespect for law and order explode in his face within a space of six days.

However, since the South is greatly interested in, and gravely concerned over, the situation in Mississippi, perhaps the governor could be more explicit with respect to these "reports of various movements," with respect to "some disturbing elements" and "these influences . . . seeking to create unrest and unhappiness.

OCT 21 1942

As the governor's earnest plea for unity and sober judgment stands, it is weakened by such generalities. If there are such movements, such elements that are, as he says, working to create conditions of unrest, then they should be named. It should be made clear how they are working, on what people they are working.

Until this is done, most persons likely will be inclined to accept the view that men again refused to wait for justice to take its course.

Birmingham, Ala. Age Herald
October 20, 1942

Another Lynching!

Within a week, three Negroes were lynched in Mississippi. Early Monday, Oct. 12, two 14-year-old Negro boys, charged with attacking a 13-year-old white girl, were taken from the jail in Quitman and hanged from a bridge. Five days later, a Negro man convicted of murder was seized by a group estimated to number between 75 and 100 men, taken from the Jones County Jail and hanged.

Yesterday, it was reported from Hazelhurst, Miss., Gov. Paul B. Johnson had stationed deputies, highway patrolmen and state guardsmen in that area as search went on for an escaped Negro man charged with slaying a law officer.

Gov. Johnson said that he was doing everything he could to locate the escaped Negro, to see that he is protected and is given a fair trial.

The governor, immediately following the lynching of the two 14-year-old Negro boys, promised to do everything in his power to bring about the apprehension of the men committing the crime. It was reported that three or four men allegedly members of the mob committing the other lynching had been apprehended.

This later lynching adds to the great concern of the Southern people. Lynching, no matter how horrible the provocative crime, is itself murder. Lynching constitutes a flagrant disregard for the established laws of this country. It is an obvious evidence of belief that certain laws are not to be respected.

In our neighboring state of Mississippi there must be many loyal citizens who are deeply grieved at the actions of those two mobs. Throughout the nation attention has again been directed to the South. The fine work of a great many Southerners to prevent lynching was, within the space of six days, greatly set back.

It is through no superficial desire to "touch" men that we say, at this hour in our history when we are all pledged to win victory in the present war, that crimes of this nature are actually crimes against our states, our nation, against our democratic way of life. Among the things for which we are fighting is the tradition of a healthy respect for law and order.

In the name of freedom, let every man realize and understand that it is now against the laws of his country that such crimes are committed, that when justice is so violently abused, it is an evidence of disrespect for those very principles for which we now fight.

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Southern

Houston, Miss. Post
October 22, 1942

MUSINGS

Behind the Corn Crib

By A. CORNSTALK

Within the past few days, two negroes raped a young white girl down in Clarke county and were lynched, a negro man killed a dairyman down in Jones county and was lynched, and a negro bootlegger killed a deputy sheriff down in Copiah county and is being threatened with lynching when caught.

Governor Paul B. Johnson has expressed himself as "shocked almost beyond words" at the three lynchings and determined to prevent a fourth, in which most Mississippians heartily concur.

But, as is usually the case, one of the negro "big four" organizations in Washington that "fights for equal treatment" of the races wherever this is feasible" had to intrdue itc irritating self into the picture, which won't serve to allay the flames. The United Press reported that the "National Negro Council" asked President Roosevelt to declare martial law in Mississippi.

According to Kiplinger's "Washington Is Like That," the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Urban League, the National Council of Negro Women (which receives much attention through Mrs. Roosevelt's friendliness"), and the National Negro Congress, "the most selfish of the four", constitute the negro "big four" organizations of Washington. Whether it was the National Council of Negro Women or the National Negro Congress which sought the punishment of martial law for all Mississippi whites is not clear from the news dispatch, but whichever one it was could have served racial relations in the South—and, it might as well be truthfully said, in the rest of the country, as well—by keeping themselves out of the picture and leaving the matter to the handling of the duly constituted authorities in Mississippi, who promise retribution for those who participated in the lynchings.

The negroes "have given President Roosevelt a secure position as the greatest patron saint" of their race since Lincoln, Kipplinger said, but the President would be departing from that role were he to invoke punishment on the whole white population of Mississippi to gratify the lust for vengeance of a rabid group of Washington negro "equality" seekers. A great deal of blame is already being laid at the door of the Roosevelts for the flare-up in racial relations and martial law could only serve to intensify it.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
October 23, 1942

The Chief Offenders

Attorney General Biddle's suggestion that the recent lynchings in Mississippi should be investigated and that the guilty should be prosecuted vigorously, is timely and should be supported fully provided what he says is what he means, and the matter is carried to its ultimate, as it should be.

If Mr. Biddle will make his inquiry thorough and begin at the beginning, he will start to work in the shadow of the Capital where his inyestigators may have easy access to records and accurate information concerning the activities of agitators, trouble-makers, alien disturbers, racial-equality zealots and the whole pack of inflammatory individuals upon whom blame for the current situation rests.

He will find that the lynchings in question did not have their inception in Mississippi but in the District of Columbia and that they did not start with criminal violence on the part of Mississippi blacks but with allegedly law-abiding "reformers" and "makers-over" who have their habitat in Washington.

These hair-brained individuals, who have neither the time nor the desire to get at the truth about a situation but wish to proceed upon the basis of what is going to please a few colored leaders in the North, should know they are playing with dynamite, but they will not inform themselves. Moved by impulse rather than by logic or reason, they put in motion evil influences that cause troubles of a most hideous nature and then, when the troubles have developed, piously seek to put the blame elsewhere.

Persons who incite acts of violence are equally guilty with those who commit acts of violence, as Mr. Biddle well knows, and in going into the Mississippi lynchings he should go after those who are chiefly responsible—and in doing it he won't have to leave Washington.

Chattanooga, Tenn. Daily Times
October 22, 1942

NOT EVEN NOTICED

A Tennessee sheriff bluffed a mob out of a lynching at Pulaski yesterday, after from 50 to 70 men had battered their way into his jail. But in Mississippi, the habit which officials have of "looking the other way" gives mobs the green light.

The Jones County grand jury at Laurel, Mississippi, was discharged Tuesday after submitting its report, in which a lynching at Laurel last Saturday morning was not even mentioned. Howard Wash, who had been given life imprisonment for killing his employer, was taken from the jail by a mob and hanged from a bridge, and the grand jury, which is supposed to report on violence, did not even mention this lynching, although it sat for some time after the lynching. By failing to mention the outrage the grand jury seemed to condone it.

Two other Negroes, fourteen-year-old boys, were lynched near Meridian, Mississippi, earlier last week.

The failure of the Jones County grand jury to notice the exhibition of Naziism of last Saturday should not escape the attention of the Governor of Mississippi. If he wishes to see justice done, let him demand of the citizens of Laurel and of Meridian that they expose members of the mobs which constituted themselves as a Mississippi Gestapo last week.

Birmingham, Ala. News
October 19, 1942

And Now Mississippi

A mob in Clarke County, Miss., dragged from jail two young Negroes who had pleaded guilty to attempted rape, and hanged them.

These were the third and fourth deaths by lynching in the United States this year. Mississippi now joins Texas and Missouri in the shame of giving way to racial hatred and mob rule.

Last year and in 1940 there were five lynchings. We have come a good way since the '20s, when lynchings averaged 31 a year. But not far enough. In a war year, when we are fighting for a world in which justice may live, every resort to the punishment of crime by mobs rather than by judicial process is a double stain upon our national honor.

Will Mississippi undertake to punish the lynchers? Or will continued crimes of this sort force the enactment of a federal law to deal with them?—Chicago Sun.

Birmingham, Ala. News
October 13, 1942

Mississippi Governor Starts Investigation In Lynching Of Youths

JACKSON, Miss.—(AP)—Gov. Paul Johnson has served notice that he will do all in his power to bring to justice a group of unidentified men who lynched two Negroes early Monday in Clarke County.

The youths, Charlie Lang and Ernest Green, both 14, of Shubuta, were taken from the Quitman jail after they had entered pleas of guilty to charges of attempted rape of a 13-year-old white girl.

"I will exert every reasonable effort to see that the violated laws of Mississippi are vindicated," said Johnson. "Such acts are spots upon the good name of Mississippi and the better class of people here condemn this wrong."

The governor said he had asked Sheriff Lloyd McNeal, of Clarke County, why he hadn't moved the Negroes after the guilty pleas Saturday and the sheriff replied that he had been advised by the county attorney that it would be all right to keep the Negroes in the Quitman jail.

"He said he saw no evidence of

Chattanooga, Tenn. Daily Times
October 21, 1942

NEGRO LYNCHING PROBE BEGUN IN MISSISSIPPI

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20 (AP).—G-men were sent into the south today for the third time in nine months to investigate Negro lynchings.

Atty-Gen. Biddle announced, in a nine-word statement, the decision to have the federal bureau of investigation sift the circumstances under which two youths and a man were hanged by mobs in Mississippi last week. He said: "Assuming investigation develops a case, relentless prosecution will follow."

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Birmingham, Ala. News
October 20, 1942

The Mississippi Lynchings

The nation has been shocked by the manifestations of the mob spirit in Mississippi, where three lynchings have taken place within a week, with another appearing threatened. It is one of the blackest records in the history of lynching in several decades.

Perhaps difficult situations have been aggravated by war's emotions. The danger that any particular situation might get out of hand may have been increased. Something like this may help to explain the extremely violent acts in Mississippi, where three persons, citizens of the country, regardless of their color or other conditions, were taken out and executed without benefit of justice under law.

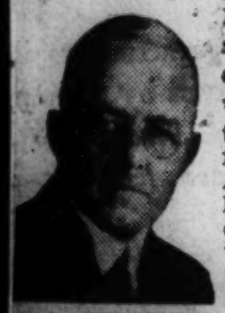
But where there is greater possibility of mob lawlessness, there should be greater official concern for the law. Responsibility rises along with the danger. That means that where lynching occurs now, stronger efforts are demanded to run down and prosecute under the law those who denied to others the right to legal hearing.

Birmingham Post
Birmingham, Alabama

Lynching Parties

By Dr. Henry M. Edmonds

Several years ago the Southern Interracial Commission appointed a committee to make a study of lynching. The committee had some money at its disposal and went at its work quite seriously. They employed Dr. Raper of the University of North Carolina to do the actual work of investigation. He studied all the records of lynching from its appearance in American life. And all the lynchings, that occurred during the year of his investigations, he studied on the ground and as quickly after the occurrence as possible. A monumental piece of work was the result.



DR. EDMONDS

DEC 14 194

One of the most interesting things that came to light was that lynching has been spread evenly over the whole country. It is not limited to any one section, but has occurred everywhere in proportion to the number of Negroes present. Another interesting thing, and as important as interesting, was that the people implicated frequently came in from considerable distance in ramshackle automobiles or on old motorcycles. The news spread up and down highways and railroads that trouble was brewing and these men hurried in to take part. Careful checks were taken of participants. They were not only non-residents in large proportion, but are non-tax-paying and irresponsible generally. A good many have criminal records.

DEC 14 1942

Of course, the most encouraging feature in the tragedy of lynching—which is the name of the book, by the way—is the consistent decrease of occurrence

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Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Negro's Counsel Plans New Appeal

Upon denial of a petition for writ of habeas corpus by U. S. District Judge Charles B. Kennamer yesterday, Frank Johnson, Jefferson County negro under death sentence for criminal assault upon a white woman, was ordered remanded to Kilby prison pending future legal steps by his attorney, Walter B. Smith, of Birmingham.

Judge Kennamer's ruling, however, makes it imperative that action be expedited by the attorney, else his client is without further recourse since the U. S. Supreme Court already has upheld the verdict of the lower courts.

The attorney in open court, following the Federal Court's denial of the petition indicated he would seek appeal of the case back into the State courts, but Judge Kennamer last night said counsel for the negro had decided to file a petition for appeal to the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

JUN 24 1942

Judge Kennamer has set Thursday at 11 a.m. as time for the new hearing.

The appeal for a writ of habeas corpus was based upon two points that were not included in previous appeals—that the defendant, at the time of his trial, was not represented by competent counsel, and that Jefferson County deliberately and consistently excluded negroes from the trial juries.

JUN 24 1942

The Federal Court here dismissed the petition on the grounds that the condemned man had not given the Alabama State courts an opportunity to pass on either of the two new points included in the appeal.

Age-Herald.
Birmingham, Ala.

APPEAL DENIED BY U. S. COURT

Jefferson Man Is Under Death Sentence In Attack Case

JUN 24 1942

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 23—(AP)—The U. S. District Court denied Tuesday a petition for writ of habeas corpus filed by Frank Johnson, Jefferson County Negro under death sentence, on a charge of criminally attacking a white woman, and counsel announced the petition would be carried to the State Supreme Court.

The appeal was based on two points that were not included in previous appeals—that the defendant, at the time of his trial, was not represented by competent counsel and that Negroes were excluded from the trial juries.

Federal Judge Charles B. Kennamer dismissed the petition and remanded Johnson to the custody of the warden at Kilby Prison on grounds that the condemned man had not given the Alabama state courts an opportunity to pass on either of the two new points.

Defense Atty. Walter S. Smith sought to show that Johnson had talked with counsel only on the day of his trial and that he had not been given opportunity to summons all of the witnesses he desired.

JUN 24 1942

Johnson's conviction of assault upon a young Bessemer wife and mother was upheld by the Alabama Supreme Court, and the U. S. Supreme Court twice has denied a review.

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Alex Wright

GENERAL

6893

"THE FBI INVESTIGATES"

The FBI investigated the lynching of Howard Wilpitz at Brookshire, but they discovered no information. The FBI investigated the lynching at Sikeston, but they discovered nothing that would lead to an indictment, or the identity of the lynchers. Then the FBI investigated the lynching of Willie Vinson at Texarkana, but they disclosed none of the identities of the men, or at least not enough for indictment. These consistent failures have served to break the confidence of Negroes in the FBI, and to cause some of them to think that they, too, enter a conspiracy to whitewash the accused.

Now it is announced by Attorney-General Biddle that the FBI is investigating the lynching of two 14-year-old Negroes at Shubuta, and the lynching of Howard Wash at Laurel, together with the near lynching of another Negro in Mississippi this week. Are these announcements of investigations by the FBI made to appease Negroes? If they are made in good faith, how does it happen that this crack detective force falls down consistently on lynchings and makes such a good record on every other phase of crime? To some it seems that it would be better if the FBI did not investigate these cases than to have them go in and make investigations and come out with blanks. Before this series of FBI investigations, the Governor's office used to investigate lynchings and then we would hear nothing more about them. Negroes are a little tired of empty, endless investigations that never bring forth any information about lynchings. From the Negroes' standpoint the obligation to protect them from mobs is on the Government, and to send investigators does not relieve the Government of the responsibility to protect Negro citizens. When American citizens are lynched in foreign countries, we somehow contrive to make complete investigations and get redress, even though it is many miles away and we cannot get there until long after the incident. Right here in America when our citizens are lynched, if they are black, the Government becomes paralyzed, dumb and backward, so that it can find out nothing.

The Tuskegee Oct 31 1942

Morning Post

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Justice Dept. Called Lax On Lynchers

New York, N. Y.

"Daily Worker"

Nov. 30, 1942

Vigorous prosecution by the Department of Justice of persons and state officials responsible for lynching and of state officials responsible for denial of the franchise to Negroes was demanded in a report adopted by the National Executive Board of the National Lawyers Guild meeting at the Hotel Roosevelt in New York City. The report was submitted by Thurgood Marshall, Special Counsel to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and William H Hastie, Dean of Howard University Law School. A supplementary report by Earl Dickerson, member of the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee, charged discrimination against Negro attorneys by the Judge-Advocate-General's office, in refusing to grant commissions to Negro attorneys. The Guild Executive Board adopted the report and decided to appoint a committee to visit the Attorney-General the Secretary of War and Navy and other government agencies to urge firmer steps against discrimination and that it be eliminated in government agencies.

The report states: "The actions and speeches of the Dixons of Alabama, the Talmadges of Georgia, the Connallys of Texas and the Bilbos of Mississippi demonstrate clearly that there are too many people in this country willing to defeat the war effort if they believe it to be necessary in order to protect the un-American doctrine of 'white supremacy'."

New York N.Y.

The report sharply criticizes the lack of vigor by Special Assistant Attorney-General, appointed by the United States Department of Justice, in presenting evidence in lynching cases. In this connection, it cites the Sikeston, Missouri, lynching case.

The report also cites the many instances of violence against Negro soldiers and sailors by state and local officials and civilians, specially on buses. "It is imperative," the report states, "that Negro soldiers and sailors have equal access with all other passengers to public carriers."

Nov. 30, 1942

The report cites instances of assaults upon Negro soldiers while on active duty where state authorities have taken no action beyond suspension for a short period of state officials responsible for these occurences.

"Despite the Tom Connallys of Texas," states the report, "it is up to the U. S. Department of Justice to institute criminal proceedings against the officials who refuse to permit qualified Negroes to vote in primary elections solely because of their race or color. To do otherwise is to permit these officials to continue to deny to qualified Negroes they very fundamental civil rights to which they are entitled. Instead of helping in the civil case now pending and also bringing criminal procedure in these cases, the U. S. Department of Justice at the present time seems to be doing nothing on this question."

The National Executive Board adopted a resolution approving in essence the War Mobilization Plan set forth in the Sixth Interin Report of the Tolan Committee and incorporated in the Tolan and Pepper-Kilgore Bills. The Board proposed that this plan for war mobilization be instituted by executive order of the President in view of the essential need for speed in bringing about maximum production for the war effort.

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MISSISSIPPI

6889

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

GOVERNOR SAYS HIS EFFORTS TO FIND LYNCHERS FAILED

OCT 31 1942

JACKSON, Miss.—(ANP)—The eyes of the nation were focused this week on Mississippi when Federal Bureau of Investigation agents were sent here to conduct a probe of the recent lynchings of two 14-year-old boys and a middle-aged man.

United States Atty. Gen. Francis Biddle upon dispatch of his representatives said that, "Assuming investigation develops a case, relentless prosecution will follow."

OCT 31 1942

Gov. Paul Johnson welcomed the G-men, stating that "If the federal government acting within its constitutional powers can be of assistance to the state I shall welcome any investigation it wishes to make."

The governor added that he had done everything possible to bring the lynchers to justice but that his efforts had failed. He reported that his personal representative, who had been ordered to Quitman, scene of one of the atrocities, said he could not learn the identity of the guilty.

OCT 31 1942

Johnson sent the investigator to Quitman after Charles Lang and Ernest Green had been kidnaped from the jail last Sunday and hanged across a nearby bridge by a mob estimated at 50 people. The youths had been arrested earlier on the unproved charges of a 13-year-old white girl that they attempted to rape her.

The other lynching occurred less than a week later and involved Howard Wash, 45, who was charged with murdering his employer last May 8. He was taken from the Laurel jailhouse and dragged through city streets before the hanging took place.

Johnson said his troops had arrested five men believed to have taken part in the Wash lynching, but they were subsequently released. Three others, however, are reported out on $1,000 bond. They are Barney Jones, Oscar Johnson and N. Schotts, said to come from wealthy families.

The governor was apparently inclined to allow the federal investigation to take its course but he was careful to point out that "It remains with the civil officers in the counties in which the lynchings were committed to follow up the cases."

OCT 31 1942

Announcement that the FBI would prove the Mississippi lynchings marks the third time in nine months that federal authorities have made such investigations.

One of two previous investigations ended with a federal grand jury finding "with reluctance" that information revealed "does not constitute any federal offense." The case was a probe into the lynching of Cleo Wright, at Sikeston, Mo., last March. The other case is still pending.

This latter case concerns the lynching of Willie Vinson, at Texarkana, Tex., on July 20. Vinson, who was accused of raping a white woman, was dragged from a hospital bed and mobbed.

In a report issued at St. Louis on July 30 to the Missouri governor and the state legislature, the grand jury urged that steps be taken to prevent future mob violence.

OCT 31 1942

"It does seem to the members of this body," read the report, "that if exclusive jurisdiction in lynching situations is to be retained by the state, machinery should be set up to train the law-enforcement officers of the smaller communities and rural sections to provide for speedy coordination of the various city, county and state agencies when an emergency arises which is beyond the capacity or competence of purely local authorities."

The federal government investigates lynchings under provision of federal civil rights statutes which guard against "deprivation of any rights, privileges or immunities secured or protected by the constitution and laws of the United States."

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
October 19, 1942

MISSISSIPPI GOVERNOR ACTS TO END LYNCHINGS

HAZLEHURST, Miss., Oct. 18 (AP).—Gov. Paul B. Johnson in Jackson tonight said he had ordered two companies of state guardsmen to Hazlehurst to aid in the search for a Negro wanted in connection with the fatal shooting of John M. Box, chief deputy sheriff.

"I'm doing everything I can to locate that Negro murderer and to see that he is protected after capture and placed in a safe jail, and given the benefit of a fair and impartial trial as would be given any other Negro charged with murder," the governor said.

"I have been promised by officers in the search that they will not allow a mob to take him and I feel sure they will live up to that promise."

Three Negroes were lynched in Mississippi last week.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
October 13, 1942

Governor To Probe Double Lynchings

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Governor Paul Johnson has served notice that he will do all in his power to bring to justice a group of unidentified men who lynched two Negroes early yesterday in Clarke County.

Charlie Lang and Ernest Green, both 14, of Shubuta, were taken from the Quitman jail after they had entered pleas of guilty to charges of attempted rape of a 13-year-old white girl.

"I will exert every reasonable effort to see that the violated laws of Mississippi are vindicated," said Johnson. "Such acts are spots upon the good name of Mississippi and the better class of people here condemn this wrong."

The Governor said he had asked Sheriff Lloyd McNeal of Clarke County why he hadn't moved the Negroes after the guilty pleas Saturday and the sheriff replied that he had been advised by the county attorney that it would be all right to keep the Negroes in the Quitman jail.

"He said he saw no evidence of any probable lynching," Johnson continued, "but I told him it was his duty to notify the Governor so the prisoners could be protected as has been done before."

Appeal to FDR In Lynchings

P.M. Daily
N.Y.C.
OCT 26 1942

The people of Harlem held a mass meeting yesterday to ask swift punishment of the mobs which recently have lynched three Negroes in Mississippi.

The meeting, held at Salem Methodist Church, 129th St. and Madison Ave., was sponsored by the National Negro Congress, the National Emergency Committee to Stop Lynching, and the Salem Church Lyceum.

Mississippi authorities were condemned for the legal whitewashing that so far has protected the lynchers of two 18-year-old Negro boys and of a man who had been taken from jail and murdered after he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

The crowd at the meeting applauded wires which were sent to Gov. Johnson, of Mississippi, and President Roosevelt. Johnson was asked to appoint a special prosecutor and call for new Grand Jury investigations of the lynchings.

OCT 26 1942

The President was asked to instruct the Attorney General's office to use its investigating powers under the Civil Rights Act.

Among the speakers at the meeting were Councilman A. Clayton Powell, Rep. Vito Marcantonio, Dr. Max Yergan, of the National Negro Congress, and Rev. C. Y. Trigg, pastor of Salem Methodist Church.

Mobile, Ala., Register
October 21, 1942

To Probe Three Lynchings Biddle Orders FBI Agents

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20.—(AP)—G-men were sent into the South today for the third time in nine months to investigate negro lynchings.

Attorney-General Biddle announced, in a nine-word statement, the decision to have the Federal Bureau of Investigation sift the circumstances under which two youths and a man were hanged by mobs in Mississippi last week. He said:

"Assuming investigation develops ..."

May 8. He was taken from the Laurel jailhouse and dragged through city streets before the hanging.

Johnson said his troops had arrested five men believed to have taken part in the Wash lynching, but they were subsequently released. Three others however are reported out on $1,000 bonds. They are Barney Jones, Oscar Johnson, and N. Shotts, said to come from wealthy families.

The governor was apparently inclined to allow the federal investigation to take its course but he was careful to point out that, "It remains with the civil officers in the counties in which the lynchings were committed to follow up the cases."

One of two previous investigations ended with a federal grand jury finding "with reluctance" that information revealed "does not constitute any federal offense." The case was a probe into the lynching of Cleo Wright, at Sikesston, Mo., last March. The other case is still pending.

This latter case concerns the lynching of Willie Vinson, at Texarkana, Tex., on July 20. Vinson, who was "accused" of raping a white woman, was dragged from a hospital bed and mobbed.

That, Too, Mr. Biddle

Acting under specific instructions of Atty. Gen. Francis Biddle, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has begun an investigation into three recent lynchings in Mississippi. Mr. Biddle has the right to order such an inquiry, for the FBI is a division of the Department of Justice which he heads.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tenn.
OCT 23 1942

The basis for Federal intervention into what is generally considered a matter for local law enforcement is a purported civil liberties violation. Mr. Biddle dotes on civil liberties.

Governor Johnson, in accepting Federal intervention, asserts that as Governor he has done his utmost to bring those responsible for the lynchings to justice. There is nothing to indicate that he has done less than that. The intervention came, not at request of Governor Johnson, but as a result of group pressure applied at Washington.

OCT 23 1942

Having entered the cases, it will be generally accepted as fact throughout this area that the FBI will stick to formula and will make its investigation honestly, meticulously, and without regard for the toes which get stepped on. For their part the people, having great respect for that organization, will remember that the FBI did not institute the inquiry of its own volition.

OCT 23 1942

The FBI, however, has never made claim to infallibility, and it will count no chickens until they hatch.

In an appeal to the people of Mississippi for "unity, sober thinking, sound judgment and patriotism," Governor Johnson asserted that "there are some disturbing elements at work now which have in mind only one purpose, that of aiding the Axis powers."

"These influences," he said, "are not working for the betterment of any one group, but are seeking to create unrest and unhappiness among a once happy and united folk.

OCT 23 1942

"In a co-operative manner let's get to the root of the evil and blast from our borders the disturbing influences and elements. We have lived happily in the past and will so continue if left alone to adjust our own affairs."

That, Mr. Biddle, is an invitation you cannot afford to ignore.

Governor Johnson calls attention to what he says is the presence of disturbing elements. Inasmuch as Mr. Biddle has ordered the FBI to make a civil liberties violation investigation, it is incumbent upon him to order an exhaustive investigation also into a background of anxieties and fears created unquestionably by outside influences and elements.

Nor should such an investigation be confined solely to Mississippi. It should be Southwide, it should be exhaustive, it should be so conclusive in results that Washington will be brought to realize that a situation exceedingly dangerous to national unity and successful prosecution of the war has been in process of creation over a long period.

OCT 23 1942

Though he does not say so, the elements which Governor Johnson has in mind are subversive, and subversion can be domestically political in character as well as having an enemy agent activity background.

If the FBI can be used for development of civil liberties cases, then certainly that organization can be used to trace the genesis of widespread unrest throughout the South, and of which the recent lynchings in Mississippi were a manifestation.

Outside influences, groups, organizations and individuals have taken it upon themselves to adjust custom, tradition and conditions in the South to the disturbance of good order and racial relationships, and it is just as important to bring these out into the open as it is to bring to justice those who violated the law in Clarke and Jones Counties.

The FBI is the only agency competent to do the job. A presidential directive specifically assigned to it the task of controlling subversion.

Find out what's happening throughout the South, Mr. Biddle. It may amaze you. The enemies of a section are the enemies of a Nation. Though they may be out of reach of legal courts, they are not immune from that one of public opinion.

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
October 21, 1942

Governor Aids FBI In Lynching Probe

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 21.—(U.P.)—Governor Paul B. Johnson promised full co-operation Wednesday in a Federal Bureau of Investigation inquiry into the recent lynchings of three Negroes in southern Mississippi.

Johnson said he welcomed the investigation ordered by Attorney General Francis Biddle and added "I have done everything in my power to apprehend and punish those who violated the state laws."

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
October 21, 19

Biddle Orders FBI Probe of Lynchings In Mississippi

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20.—(A.P.)—Attorney-General Biddle ordered the Federal Bureau of Investigation today to investigate the three recent lynchings in Mississippi, and declared that "relentless prosecution will follow" if a case is developed.

Two 14-year-old Negro boys were hanged from a railroad bridge near Meridian on Oct. 12 after confessing an attempted attack upon a 13-year-old white girl. They were taken from the Quitman, Miss., jail.

The third lynching occurred Saturday at Laurel, Miss., when a mob stormed the Jones county jail and removed Howard Wash, 45, after his conviction on a charge of murdering his dairyman employer. The jury had disagreed on whether Wash should have death or a life prison term, which made a life sentence mandatory.

6891

Punish By Death

Daily Worker OCT 23 1942

AXIS barbarism, with its horrible bombing and machine-gunning of defenseless populations and its wanton slaughter of children, has always roused bitter anger and protest from the American people.

N.Y. N.Y.

It is with such a sense of horror and anger that we view the lynching of two Negro children in Mississippi last week, followed immediately after by a third lynching in the same state.

But we view it also with a deep sense of shame because America as a whole shares some burden of the guilt for these lynchings.

We have permitted them to go unpunished, thereby encouraging the lynchers to continue their beastly practices. We have permitted the anti-lynch bill to die in the U.S. Senate, killed by the ideological leaders of these lynchers, who represent them in the halls of Congress. We have permitted these same ideological leaders to hold political sway through the infamous poll tax system, and thus to give aid and comfort to the lynchers.

OCT 23 1942

Always a horrible evil, a lynching today is a political crime against our nation's independence which must be punished both as murder and as treason. What political capital for Hitler, Mussolini and the Mikado! What a blow to our relations with the peoples of India, China, Africa who are subjected day and night to the "white versus colored race" propaganda of Japanese agents! What a blow to national unity in our own country!

OCT 23 1942

The federal authorities are investigating, it is reported. But at Sikestown, too, they investigated and "regretfully" found that "there was no federal offense committed." Treason is a federal offense, and must be punished by death. This must be demanded of the federal and the state authorities by the American people.

Moreover, an avalanche of pressure must descend now upon the Senate of the United States demanding that the "white supremacy" gang that holds sway in the South be sent into oblivion by the passage of the anti-poll tax law. Let's wipe out these shameful Hitlerite practices now!

Rights of States And of Citizens

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky. OCT 22 1942

The most jealous advocate of state rights has no just grounds for questioning the propriety of Attorney General BIDDLE's order for an F.B.I. investigation into the three recent Mississippi lynchings. The state authorities ought to welcome the expert assistance as they would in a case of banditry or kidnaping. If a federal law has been violated, it should be known; if not, state jurisdiction is not infringed upon.

But, which is of more importance, facts and circumstances will be revealed, any official delinquency exposed. The country is entitled to the information. All three of the victims were taken from jail where they were in state custody. There was no failure of the law to excuse the deeds. Two had confessed, the other had been convicted.

The chief law enforcement officer of the United States has a duty to perform, regardless of the jurisdiction of law courts. The victims were American citizens, entitled to the protection of rights their government guarantees, excepting upon the theory that the rights of a state are superior to the rights of its inhabitants. And upon such a theory rests the anomaly of national government that the United States is expected to be so solicitous for its citizens abroad that it will expend blood and treasure to protect or vindicate their rights, while it must leave them at home to the mercy of recreant local officers and bloodthirsty mobs.

OCT 22 1942

But, supposing one of the Mississippi victims had been a British subject from the West Indies, to whom would Britain have looked for redress and the future protection of her nationals? What could the United States have done that it can't do now? This is no abstract question; we had to face it in concrete form 50 years ago when a New Orleans mob took several Italians out of the jail and lynched them. Secretary of State BLAINE denied federal responsibility in response to representations from Rome, whereupon diplomatic relations were broken off and not resumed until President HARRISON overruled the State Department and offered financial reparation.

OCT 22 1942

Humiliating as it was, this confession of national responsibility without jurisdiction produced an effective preventive recipe for states which took the hint, and imposed arbitrary punitive damages on a county where mob violence is perpetrated. Results indicate that the law-abiding element is less tolerant if it has to pay for the fun peace officers are constrained by fear of the taxpayers' displeasure.

Governor to Help FBI Lynch Probe

P.M. Daily
N.Y. N.Y. OCT 22 1942

Special Correspondence

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 22.—Gov. Paul B. Johnson yesterday pledged full co-operation to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in its probe of the lynching of three Negroes in Southern Mississippi last week.

Attorney General Francis Biddle, in ordering FBI action, directed that the investigators determine whether the civil rights of the victims had been violated. If that is established, the Federal authorities can intervene.

OCT 22 1942

Johnson said he welcomed the investigation, adding:

"I have done everything in my power to apprehend and punish those who violated state laws."

On Tuesday Johnson called upon all Mississippians to combat the "subversive elements" in the state, which he said, were stirring up anti-Negro strife to aid the Axis.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

FREE SUSPECTS IN SOUTH'S THIRD LYNCHING IN WEEK

OCT 19 1942

OCT 19 1942

Laurel, Miss., Oct. 18 [Special].—Three men held for several hours as suspected members of the mob which early yesterday lynched Howard Wash, 49 years old, convicted Negro slayer of his employer, were released last night, county authorities said today. No charges have been placed against them.

The Jones county grand jury, which spent several hours yesterday investigating the lynching, is to reconvene tomorrow to resume its inquiry. The Wash lynching was the third in a week in Mississippi.

Two units of Mississippi state guards, sent here yesterday by Gov. Paul B. Johnson, left the city last night.

OCT 19 1942

Death for Lynchers Asked.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 18.—The National Negro congress today urged President Roosevelt to place lynchers in the same catagory as spies, saboteurs, and other public enemies for whom the death penalty is proposed in the war security bill submitted to congress by Attorney General Francis Biddle yesterday. Edgar G. Brown, director of the Negro group, also urged that Mississippi be placed under martial law as a result of its three lynchings in the last week.

OCT 19 1942

FDR Urged To Speed FBI Lynch Probe

Daily Worker
N.Y. N.Y.
OCT 23 1942

A warning that the support of the entire country must be mobilized to insure the Federal Government investigation of the three recent lynchings in Mississippi will result in indictment and conviction of the lynchers was sounded yesterday by the National Emergency Committee to Stop Lynchings, as the FBI announced opening of a probe, and Governor Paul Johnson of Mississippi pledged his support to this move.

"The President should be deluged with telegrams commending the action of the FBI which he has ordered," the committee said. "He should be urged to take steps to insure that the result will not be either a fizzle or a whitewash."

"Governor Johnson should also receive wires supporting his announced intention of proceeding vigorously for arrest and punishment of the lynchers, and of cooperating with the FBI at the same time in federal action."

Officers of the National Emergency Committee are Representative Vito Marcantonio, chairman; Ferdinand C. Smith, secretary of the National Maritime Union, secretary, and Dr Max Yergan, president of the National Negro Congress, treasurer. The committee was formed last Sunday to mobilize public opinion in support of federal and state action against the lynchers of Ernest Green, Charles Lang, and Howard Wash in Mississippi last week.

OCT 23 1942

The close-knit links between lynchings, the poll-tax, the southern "white supremacy" treason, and the phony "grass-roots" anti-labor movement will be exposed at a giant mass-meeting to be held Sunday afternoon, Oct. 25, at 4 P. M. at the Salem Methodist Church, 129th St. and Seventh Ave.

The meeting is being held under the auspices of the National Emergency Committee to Stop Lynching, the National Negro Congress, and the Salem Church Lyceum.

Speakers at the meeting will include Congressman Vito Marcantonio, president of the International Labor Defense, at whose call the National Emergency Committee was formed; Councilman A. Clayton Powell, Jr.; Dr. Max Yergan, and Ferdinand Smith. The Rev. C. Y. Tligg of Salem Church will be chairman.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

F. B. I. TO INVESTIGATE LYNCHING OF THREE

OCT 21 1942

G-Men Going to Mississippi on Double Hanging of Negroes

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20 (AP)—G-men were sent in to the South today for the third time in nine months to investigate Negro lynchings.

Attorney General Biddle announced the decision to have the Federal Bureau of Investigation look into the circumstances under which two youths and a man were hanged by mobs in Mississippi last week, in a nine-word statement:

"Assuming investigation develops a case, relentless prosecution will follow."

One case is that of Charlie Lang and Ernest Green, 14-year-old residents of Shubuta, Miss., who were dragged from the Quitman jail, Oct. 12, and hanged to a railroad bridge. Authorities in Mississippi said they had confessed the attempted rape of a 13-year-old white girl.

The other case is that of Howard Wash, 45, who was lynched near Laurel, Miss., Saturday after being convicted of murdering his employer. Wash was in the Jones County jail awaiting the start of a life sentence which became mandatory after the jury failed to agree on whether he should be given death or a life term.

Of the two previous investigations, the first of their kind by the Federal Government in many years, one was computed with a Federal grand jury finding—"with great reluctance"—that the facts disclosed "do not constitute any Federal offense." The case involved the job killing at Sikeston, Mo., of Cleo Wright, a Negro, alleged to have slashed the wife of a soldier and also stabbed the policeman who arrested him.

OCT 21 1942

The other investigation still is under way. It concerns the lynching of William Vinson, a Negro, at Texarkana, Texas, on July 20. Vinson was accused of attempting to rape a white woman, was wounded while being captured, and was taken from a Texarkana hospital by a mob which dragged him through the streets and hanged him.

OCT 21 1942

The grand jury in the Sikeston case, reporting at St. Louis on July 30, urged the Governor and the Missouri Legislature to see what steps could be taken to prevent a recurrence of such mob action.

"It does seem to the members of this body," the report said, "that if exclusive jurisdiction in lynching situations is to be retained by the State, machinery should be set up to train the law-enforcement officers of the smaller communities and rural sections to provide for speedy coordination of the various city, county and State agencies when an emergency arises which is beyond the capacity or competence of purely local authorities."

The Federal Government conducts its investigations under the so-called civil rights statutes which guard against "deprivation of any rights, privileges or immunities secured or protected by the Constitution and laws of the United States.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

JURORS CALLED FOR LYNCH PROBE SIMPLY IGNORE IT

OCT 20 1942

Report on Quiz Fails to Mention Death.

Larel, Miss., Oct. 19 [Special].—The grand jury called into session to investigate the lynching of a Negro near here Saturday submitted its final report this afternoon—a report which did not even mention the lynching.

OCT 20 1942

Circuit Judge F. Burkitt Collins emphatically had instructed the jury to inquire into the mob slaying of Howard Nash, a Negro convicted of killing his employer. The lynching had taken place only a few hours before the jurors were called to duty and had so disturbed the community that Gov. Paul Johnson had called out the state guard to preserve order here.

The only statement of the jury which could be even remotely construed as referring to Joudge Collins' charge, however, was its conclusion to a report of 34 other indictments.

Inquiry Called Thoro.

"We hase investigated thoroly all cases coming before us and the doors of the grand jury have been open at all times to those who desire to come before the grand jury," the conclusion said.

OCT 20 1942

Three Jones county residents—Oscar Johnson, N. Shotts, and Barney Jones—arrested Saturday on charges of intimidating an officer in connection with the lynching, were released under bond of $1,000 each. No date for their hearing has been set.

The two companies of state guardsmen, removed from here Saturday night after tension had relaxed with the freeing of the three white men, were on duty today at Hazelhurst, about 75 miles west of here, where a hunt was in progress for another Negro accused of killing a deputy sheriff who had attempted to arrest him on a liquor charge.

Fugitive Hunted by Posse.

Gov. Johnson had ordered the guardsmen to preserve order when he learned that a posse of 100 armed peace officers and deputized citizens, riding in state highway patrol cars, was trying to track down the fugitive. The governor said he was doing everything he could to see that the Negro would be given "a fair and impartial trial as would be given any other Negro charged with murder."

In a statement today the governor deplored the unrest in his state, were three Negroes have been lynched in less tha na week, and blamed "outside influences." He referred to "some disturbing elements at work which have in mind only one purpose, that of aiding the axis powers," and declared that his administration is "tackling the real Negro problem." He called Mississippians for "unity, sober thinking, and sound judgment in these trying times."

OCT 20 1942

Meantime, the Workers' Defense league, which has headquarters in New York City, suggested in a letter to the governor that he, President Roosevelt, and Attorney General Francis Biddle address a public gathering at Meridian, Miss., and call upon citizens to testify against members of a mob that lynched two 14 year old Negro boys last week in Shubuta, Miss.

Will Act Against Lynchers, Says Gov. Johnson

Daily Worker
N.Y. N.
OCT 16 1942

Sharp protests to Governor Paul R. Johnson of Mississippi against the hanging of Ernest Green and Charles Lang, two 14-year-old boys, from a bridge by a lynch mob near Quitman, Miss., on Oct. 12 brought a promise of action against the lynchers by the governor.

Governor Johnson's promise to act was in reply to a wire to Congressman Vito Marcantonio of president of the International Labor Defense, who had demanded immediate prosecution with death penalty for the guilty.

Governor Johnson wired back:

Vito Marcantonio, President;
International Labor Defense,
New York, N.

OCT 16 1942

"Your telegram reference to lynching of two Negro boys in Clarke County has been received. I was just as shocked and as deeply outraged by the news of this incident as any man in the United States. It is the first lynching during my administration of three years now. I have prevented numerous lynchings by the use of my troops and would have prevented this one had I learned of danger of a lynching.

"I immediately sent my investigator to the county to make a thorough investigation.

"I expect to do everything I possibly can to see that the lynchers are prosecuted and punished for this outrageous act.

"I am opposed to mob violence just as much as you are. I agree with you that such conduct does not help our situation in a crisis like we are going through now.

PAUL B. JOHNSON
Governor of Mississippi."

Marcantonio's wire in the name of the ILD, had told the governor that:

OCT 16 1942

"Lynching of two Negro children in Clarke County has shocked the nation. Only immediate, full prosecution without whitewash which has characterized action in so many previous cases, with death penalty for those responsible, can be accepted by the country. Every lynching provides fuel for Hitler. Every failure to punish lynching multiplies the aid and comfort which the enemy receives."

Marcantonio said yesterday that he would hold an emergency meeting with leaders of various organizations Sunday to discuss action to help implement the Governor's announcement.

Many organizations had wired the Governor and President Roosevelt and the Attorney General demanding strong action against the child killers.

Biddle Orders F.B.I. Probe Of Lynchings

OCT 21 1942

Courier-Journal

Relentless Prosecution Pledged If Warranted

Louisville, Ky.
OCT 21 1942

Washington, Oct. 2[1] (AP)—G-men were sent into the south today for the third time in nine months to investigate Negro lynchings.

Attorney General Biddle announced, in a nine-word statement, the decision to have the Federal Bureau of Investigation probe the circumstances under which two youths and a man were hanged by mobs in Mississippi last week. He said:

"Assuming investigation develops a case, relentless prosecution will follow."

OCT 2[1] 1942

Youths' Case Included.

One case is that of Charlie Lang and Ernest Green, 14-year-old residents of Shubuta, Miss., who were dragged from the Quitman jail October 12 and hanged to a railroad bridge. Authorities in Mississippi said they had confessed the attempted rape of a 13-year-old white girl.

The other case is that of Howard Wash, 45, lynched near Laurel, Miss., Saturday after being convicted of murdering his employer. Wash was in the Jones County Jail awaiting the start of a life sentence, which became mandatory after the jury failed to agree on whether he should be given death or a life term.

No Offense Found.

Of the two previous investigations, the first of their kind by the Federal Government in many years, one was completed with a federal grand jury finding—"with great reluctance"—that the facts disclosed "do not constitute any federal offense." The case involved the mob killing at Sikeston, Mo., of Cleo Wright, a Negro, alleged to have slashed the wife of a soldier and also stabbed the policeman who arrested him.

The other investigation still is under way. It concerns the lynching of William Vinsen, a Negro, at Texarkana, Texas, on July 20. Vinson was accused of attempting to rape a white woman, was wounded while being captured and was taken from a Texarkana hospital by a mob which dragged him through the streets and hanged him.

37g-1942
Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

MISSOURI

6(c) 6885

THE FEDERAL GRAND JURY

Many of the Negro papers are enthusiastic in their comments on the fact that Attorney General Francis Biddle has ordered an investigation into the lynching of a Negro at Texarkana, Texas. We too, had the same enthusiastic illusion following the report that the government would make an investigation of the lynching of Cleo Wright, at Sikeston, January 25, last. But we regret to state that we were disillusioned last week when the Federal Grand Jury in St. Louis, in charge of Attorney Jacob M. Lashly, failed to find sufficient evidence of neglect or conspiracy on the part of the officials at Sikeston to return an indictment.

As a layman and even though we were not present when the testimonies were given, we can truthfully say that it appears to us that there was plain and strong evidence in the Cleo Wright case which would show that the officials, both state and local, failed to give the victim of the mob the full protection of the law, as well as flagrantly refusing to do their sworn duty as peace or law enforcement officers of the state and county. We do not see how a Federal Grand Jury, acting under competent sincere prosecutors could fail to return an indictment in the face of the evidence that has been publicized, and not denied, from California to Maine, from the Gulf to the Great Lakes—and we might add here, that this Cleo Wright lynching was also publicized in many foreign lands in foreign language.

As we undestand it, the government was interested in the case to the extent of ascertaining whether any of the officials connected with the case during or before the action of the mob, had failed to do his duty in protecting the life of a citizen, or whether there was any conspiracy on the part of the officials to deny Wright the due process of law, after having been in the custody of the officials.

Judging from the published reports, there is much evidence some of which is sustained by facts, that every official who was on the scene failed, absolutely, to do his duty. Not a shot was fired to frighten the ringleaders of the mob. Only a feeble attempt was made by one of the officials to restrain the mob's action. A State Highway Patrolman led the mob; it was broad open daylight, about one o'clock in the afternoon, and the officials are said to have mingled with the mob and utterly failed to secure the name of even one of the ringleaders. Nor did any of these officials secure the name of the owner of the car to which Cleo Wright was chained while being dragged through the streets, nor did any of these officials get the number of the car that was used to drag the body of the victim to the scene of the holocaust. In other words, abundant, in fact a super abundance of evidence shows that law and order broke down because of the failure of the officers of the law to do their duty. This, we think, is a prima facie case against these officials and again we say, we do not see by what hook or crook a Federal Grand Jury could refuse to return an indictment. We noted in the Grand Jury's report to Judge George H. Moore that much praise was given State Highway Patrolman Melvin Dace for his "fine job, much more than the letter of duty required." This looks to us like a whitewash, pure and simple. And in the same report we notice the statement: "the police department of Sikeston appears to be no stronger and probably no weaker than the average for a community of that size." It is not a matter of whether the police officials of Sikeston were stronger or weaker than the average person in their community, but what the Grand Jury was to determine was whether the officers failed to do their duty. Being weak and prejudiced is no more an excuse for failure of a Grand Jury to return an indictment than it would be to refuse to arrest a man for being drunk just because he had a weakness for liqour. Then, too, we notice in this report that the Grand Jury called Cleo Wright a "brutal criminal", when as a matter of fact, Wright had never been convicted of any crime by a competent court. Even if he did commit the crime with which he was charged (by the mob) the officials were bound by their oath and by the federal statue to give the accused the full protection of the law. All of this shows the kind of glasses through which federal grand jurors and federal prosecutors may see crime where a Negro is involved. Finally we say to our brethren who are enthusiastic over the Federal Grand Jury investigation of the recent lynching in Texas, that we in Missouri are pretty well disillusioned as a result of the Cleo Wright-Sikeston lynching case.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Sikeston Police Draw Fire Of Federal Jurors

Mo. Lynching Is Called A Shameful Outrage

WASHINGTON—(U. P. S)—The Department of Justice announced that a Federal Grand Jury sitting at St. Louis, Mo., Thursday handed up a report in the Sikeston lynching case describing the occurrence as a "shameful outrage" and censuring the Sikeston police force for having "failed completely to cope with the situation."

The report states that the Grand Jury sought to determine whether any Federal statutes had been violated, but "with great reluctance, has come to the conclusion that the facts disclosed do not constitute any Federal offense." No indictments were returned.

The case, which involved the lynching of Cleo Wright, Negro, by a mob at Sikeston, Mo., on the night of January 25, went to the Federal Grand Jury on May 13. Representing the Government was Jacob M. Lashly, of St. Louis, a former president of the American Bar Association. Deliberations have continued since that time except for a recess between July 3 and July 20.

FAILS TO INDICT

Attorney General Francis Biddle, acting upon the recommendation of Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge, in charge of the Criminal Division, ordered a FBI investigation of the Wright lynching on February 13. On February 28, at the request of Governor Forrest C. Donnell of Missouri, a preliminary report of the FBI was made available to the Governor for his use in making a presentment on a charge of murder to the Grand Jury of Scott County, Mo. This Grand Jury failed to indict.

In his letter transmitting the report to Governor Donnell, the Attorney General pointed out that the Department reserved the right to institute Federal proceedings if, at a later date, this course should seem desirable. In consequence of the failure of the local Grand Jury to return an indictment, a Federal Grand Jury investigation was ordered on May 13. The special report handed up yesterday is the result of the deliberations of this Grand Jury.

TEXT OF REPORT

The full text of the report is as follows:

"The members of your grand jury have finished a painstaking and exhaustive inquiry into the alleged lynching of a Negro citizen at Sikeston, Missouri on Sunday, January 23, 1942. The evidence showed that this Negro, after breaking into the home of the wife of a National Guardsman away at war, in the middle of the night, had dangerously slashed the woman across the abdomen and then had seriously stabbed the policeman who arrested him. In the course of the arrest the Negro was shot four times and was pronounced at the point of death by the attending physician.

"The grand jury and its legal advisors questioned long and searchingly many witnesses from Sikeston and vicinity in an attempt to determine whether any federal statute had been violated by the members of the mob but, finally, with great reluctance, has come to the conclusion that the facts disclosed do not constitute any federal offense.

"The members of this grand jury feel it a duty, however, to say to Your Honor, so that the people of Sikeston and the people of the State of Missouri may be informed correctly, that we consider this outbreak not only a shameful outrage against the rights which all Americans hold dear, but also a deplorable blot upon the reputation of this State as a law-abiding, peace-loving commonwealth. No more useless violence ever was committed, in as much as the facts disclosed if the Negro was not already dead when taken from the authorities, he would have been dead within a short time.

"It is our considered judgment that the sergeant and troopers of the State Highway Patrol did a fine job—much more than the letter of their duties required. The Police Department of Sikeston, from the evidence, appears to be no stronger and probably no weaker than the average for a community of that size. It caught the criminal quickly, efficiently and courageously, but from there on failed completely to cope with the situation. The sheriff is located miles away at the County seat, and his deputies, after the usual Missouri fashion, are scattered. Although the evidence shows he got one deputy and started promptly when called by the Highway Patrol sergeant, the mob had achieved its purpose before he reached Sikeston.

"Although this is a federal grand jury, without state jurisdiction, we believe it our duty respectfully to suggest to the Governor and the members of the next legislature of Missouri that earnest study be given to the functioning of the various law enforcement agencies which dealt with this mob to see whether steps can not be taken to prevent a recurrence anywhere in the State of such a tragic break-down of the protections of government.

"It does seems to the members of this body that if exclusive jurisdiction in lynching situations is to be retained by the State, machinery should be set up to train the law enforcement officers of the smaller communities and rural sections and to provide for speedy coordination of the various city, county and state agencies when an emergency arises which is beyond the capacity or competence of the purely local authorities. The ri and liberties of Missourians and good name of their State des more effective protection.

"In this instance a brutal mianl was denied due process. next time a mob might lynch person entirely innocent. whether the victim be guilty o nocent, the blind passion of a can not be substituted for due cess of law if orderly govern is to survive."

New Orleans, La., Times-Picayune
July 31, 1942

LYNCHING IS RULED NOT FEDERAL CRIME

(The Associated Press)

St. Louis, July 30.—A federal grand jury which investigated the lynching of Cleo Wright, Negro, by a mob at Sikeston, Mo., last January 25, reported to United States District Judge George H. Moore today that "the facts disclosed do not constitute any federal offense."

Therefore, no indictments were returned in the case, which grew out of the alleged attack on a white woman whose husband is a sergeant in the army.

The grand jury, however, criticized the killing of Wright as a "shameful outrage against all the rights which Americans hold dear and a deplorable blot on the reputation of the state as a law-abiding, peace-loving commonwealth."

Miami, Fla. Herald
July 31, 1942

Police Chided For Lynching

By United Press

WASHINGTON, July 30.—The justice department announced Thursday that a federal grand jury investigating the lynching of a negro at Sikeston, Mo., Jan. 25 had issued a special report censuring the Sikeston police for having "failed completely to cope with the situation."

The jury, sitting in St. Louis, had sought to determine whether any federal status had been violated, but, according to its report, "with great reluctance has come to the conclusion that the facts disclosed do not constitute any federal offense."

Victim of the lynching was Cleo Wright, who had attacked the wife of a national guardsman with a knife and stabbed the policeman who arrested him. In the course of his capture the negro was shot four times and critically wounded. He was in a critical condition when seized by the mob which lynched him.

"We consider this outbreak not only a shameful outrage against the rights which all Americans hold dear," the grand jury reported, "but also a deplorable blot upon the reputation of this state. No more useless violence ever was committed."

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

FULL TEXT OF FEDERAL GRAND JURY REPORT ON SIKESTON'S LYNCHING

The full text of the United States grand jury report on the Sikeston lynching, made to Judge George H. Moore of the U. S. district court at St. Louis on July 30 follows:

The members of your grand jury have finished a painstaking and exhaustive inquiry into the alleged lynching of a Negro citizen at Sikeston, Mo., on Sunday, January 23, 1942.

The evidence showed that this Negro, after breaking into the home of the wife of a National Guardsman away at war, in the middle of the night, had dangerously slashed the woman across the abdomen and then had seriously stabbed the policeman who arrested him. In the course of the arrest the Negro was shot four times and was pronounced at the point of death by the attending physician.

The grand jury and its legal advisors questioned long and searchingly many witnesses from Sikeston and vicinity in an attempt to determine whether any federal statutes had been violated by the members of the mob, but finally, with great reluctance, has come to the conclusion that the facts disclosed do not constitute any federal offense.

The members of this grand jury feel it a duty, however, to say to Your Honor, so that the people of Sikeston and the people of the state of Missouri may be informed correctly, that we consider this outbreak not only a shameful outrage against the rights which all Americans hold dear, but also a deplorable blot upon the reputation of this state as a law-abiding, peace-loving commonwealth.

No more useless violence ever was committed, inasmuch as the facts disclosed if the Negro was not already dead when taken from the authorities, he would have been dead within a short time.

It is our considered judgment that the sergeant and troopers of the state highway patrol did a fine job—much more than the letter of their duties required. The police department of Sikeston, from the evidence, appears to be no stronger and probably no weaker than the average for a community of that size.

It caught the criminal quickly, efficiently and courageously, but from there on failed completely to cope with the situation. The sheriff is located miles away at the County seat, and his deputies, after the usual Missouri fashion, are scattered. Although the evidence shows he got one deputy and started promptly when called by the highway patrol sergeant, the mob had achieved its purpose before he reached Sikeston.

Although this is a federal grand jury, without state jurisdiction, we believe it our duty respectfully to suggest to the governor and the members of the next legislature of Missouri that earnest study be given to the functioning of the various law enforcement agencies which dealt with this mob to see whether steps cannot be taken to prevent a recurrence anywhere in the state of such a tragic break-down of the protections of government.

It does seem to the members of this body that if exclusive jurisdiction in lynching situations is to be retained by the state, machinery should be set up to train the law enforcement officers of the smaller communities and rural sections and to provide for speedy coordination of the various city, county and state agencies when an emergency arises which is beyond the capacity or competence of the purely local authorities. The rights and liberties of Missourians and the good name of their state deserve more effective protection.

In this instance a brutal criminal was denied due process. The next time a mob might lynch a person entirely innocent. But whether the victim be guilty or innocent, the blind passion of a mob cannot be substituted for due process of law if orderly government is to survive."

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Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Federal Men Probe Charge Police Did Not Protect Victim

FEB 20 1942

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By Staff Writer FEB 20 1942

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Missouri attorney general's office are moving into Sikeston, Mo., to aid in the investigation of the lynching of Cleo Wright there on January 25.

The FBI was ordered to make a federal probe by U. S. Attorney General Biddle who said that he wanted to determine whether there was ground for prosecution under the Bill of Rights "in view of the apparent failure of local police to provide the prisoner with proper protection." FEB 20 1942

The Missouri attorney general, Roy A. McKittrick, was ordered to send an assistant to Sikeston by Governor Donnell who promised a delegation of Negro Missouri citizens immediately following the lynching that he would see that the investigation made was "no mere formal gesture."

At the governor's suggestion, David E. Blanton, prosecuting attorney of Scott county, requested state aid in his investigation of the lynching. Blanton said that he wanted help in preparing evidence to be presented to the grand jury to be called by Judge J. C. McDowell on March 2 at Benton, Mo., county seat of Scott county.

Attorney General Biddle ordered the FBI into the Sikeston lynching on the basis of the famous "due process" clause in Article 5 of the Bill of Rights, the 10 original amendments of the United States constitution. This clause reads that a person held "to answer for a capital or infamous crime" . . . shall not be "deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

GUARANTEES TRIAL

The bill of rights also guarantees that a person accused of crime shall enjoy the right of a speedy trial.

The Kansas City office of the FBI informed THE CALL Monday that Attorney General Biddle's order probably went to the FBI office at St. Louis which handles FBI matters for the eastern half of Missouri. The Kansas City office handles the western half of Missouri.

Officials in the justice department said that this probably was the first time that the federal government had ordered an investigation of a lynching.

Prosecuting Attorney Blanton is said to have learned the identity of eight or 10 participants in the lynching, but none of the names have been made public.

FEB 20 1942

A SILENT PARADE

The St. Louis N. A. A. C. P. branch will hold a silent parade of protest against the lynching on Sunday, February 22, (Washington's birthday)

For the national office of the N. A. A. C. P., Mr. and Mrs. L. Benoist Tompkins, white St. Louisans, went to Sikeston to make an investigation of the lynching. They spent 24 hours in Sikeston questioning leading white citizens of the community and learned that the lynch mob was made up of "just folks." It was not "done by the upper classes like our last lynching," southeast Missouri whites said.

Fear of Negroes, the need to "keep the Negro in his place," and the feudal nature of southeast Missouri, where a very few people own all the land and the rest are vassals, are behind the story of the brutal lynching, the Tompkinses reported. FEB 20 1942

KILLING NEGRO NOT CRIME

"Along with this feeling runs a genuine fear of the Negro's physical violence. 'Negroes are naturally vicious,' they said, 'with less control over their emotions.' It follows that 'violence is necessary to keep them subservient.' It also follows that killing a Negro is not a crime like killing a white man, because the Negro is closer to brute than to an independent human individual with human rights. There is a carry-over of feeling in Sikeston today that goes back to the old-time southern idea that 'every white man had to have several colored girls, and kill one n———, before he became a man indeed'."

The investigators said: "We were given the definite impression that the lynchers would not be ostracized by the community; on the other hand those who might testify against the lynchers would be ostracized. Even the most liberal man to whom we spoke said that had he witnessed the crime (which he had not) he would 'not be inclined to testify'." FEB 20 1942

Negroes themselves are afraid to identify any of the mob even though they saw the entire proceedings and know those responsible.

One man in the Sunset Addition on being questioned by the Tompkinses was terrified and said he would not talk "to white folks." "We did not ask him to talk," the investigators stated, "because it is clear that he does not have police protection in Sikeston."

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

GRAND JURY REPORTS ON NEGRO'S LYNCHING

MAR 11 1942

Insufficient Evidence Found To Return True Bill

BENTON, Mo., March 10.—(AP)—A special Scott County Grand Jury convened Monday to investigate the lynching of Cleo Wright, negro cotton oil mill worker, by a mob a Sikeston on Sunday, Jan. 25, reported late Tuesday it found insufficient evidence to return a true bill.

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In a terse, two-sentence report to Circuit Court J. C. McDowell of Charleston, the jury said it was unable to place the responsibility and commended the action of state and local law enforcing agencies.

Judge McDowell accepted the report without comment. MAR 11 1942

David E. Blanton, prosecuting attorney who requested the inquiry, said the grand jury heard the testimony of 40 witnesses. Among them was A. E. Jones, Federal Bureau of Investigation agent. The FBI conducted its own investigation at the direction of United States Atty. Gen. Francis Biddle.

Wright was accused of the attempted rape of a white woman, Mrs. Dillard Sturgeon, wife of an Army sergeant, early the day of the lynching. He was shot three times by Hess Perrigan, Sikeston policeman, when he resisted arrest. Mr. Perrigan suffered severe knife wounds while wrestling with him. He has returned to work.

Mrs. Sturegon also was stabbed several times but recovered.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Scott County Grand Jury Blames No One For Sikeston Lynching

MAR 13 1942

(Read "The Governor Can Stop Lynching," an editorial reprint from "The Bench and the Bar" on this week's editorial page.)

MAR 13 1942

BENTON, Mo.—Running true to form, the Scott county grand jury found no one to blame in the lynching of Cleo Wright at Sikeston.

The jury, summoned only Monday, March 9, announced late Tuesday, March 10, that it found insufficient evidence to return a true bill. The business men and farmers of Missouri's bootheel section who made up the jury told Judge J. C. McDowell that they were unable to place the responsibility on anyone. MAR 13 1942

The judge accepted the report without comment. He already had warned them to pay no attention to "outside agitation."

The lynching now is a "closed issue" as far as local prosecution is concerned.

BENTON, Mo.—A special grand jury was sworn in Monday, March 9, to investigate the lynching of Cleo Wright at Sikeston, Mo.

The grand jury was summoned by Circuit Judge J. C. McDowell. Benton is the county seat of Scott county in which Sikeston is located. MAR 13 1942

When he summoned the jury Judge McDowell advised the men "not to be influenced by what is going on outside the county" in connection with the case.

Members of the grand jury are:

R. H. Mackley of Blodgett, Mo. ...rmer and mer...nt, fo...an.

R. D. Clayton of Sikeston, livestock dealer.

Wade Miller, Benton, merchant.

Tony Gosche, Oran, retired farmer.

Edwin Burger, Oran, b...

Frank Frobase, Benton, co-owner of the Benton Specialty company.

W. A. Eng... Benton, land dealer. MAR 13 1942

F. M. Craig, Illmo, secretary of the Scott County Building and Loan association

P. M. Keller, Chaffee, secretary of the Chaffee Building and Loan association.

Mayor L. D. Lankford, Chaffee, druggist.

Charles E...r, Sikeston, oil station operator. MAR 13 1942

Theodore Horn, Illmo, banker and merchant.

The first witnesses to appear before the jury included Hess Perrigan, police officer who shot Wright four times before the lynching; Assistant Chief of Police Harold Wallace and Sergeant Melvin Dace of the State Highway patrol; and Miles Limbaugh, garage, ...erator. MAR 13 1942

Judge McDowell told the jury that reports in the press of mass meetings held outside the county and "radical talk" in the county should be erased from their minds as they considered the case. He said the investigation would be made by "the best citizens" of Scott county and that no one else was needed to enforce the law.

Wright was ly... d by a mob of 500 persons here S... lay morning, January 25. ...er he had been removed from the city jail and dragged bel... an automobile for several blocks, Wright was burned in front of the Negro school. He was accused of attempted assault.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

FBI To Probe Lynching At Sikeston, Mo.

FEB 21 1942

Civil Rights Law Violated, Attorney General Says

WASHINGTON, D. C.—An immediate investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation into the lynching of Cleo Wright by a mob of 800 persons at Sikeston, Mo., on January 25, has been directed by Attorney General Francis Biddle.

The investigation, the Attorney General said last Friday, is being made to determine the possibility of Federal prosecution under civil rights statutes "in view of the apparent failure of local police authorities to provide the prisoner with proper protection."

The Attorney General pointed out that the civil rights statutes provides a penalty of one year imprisonment or a $1,000 fine, or both, for any person who "willfully subjects, or causes to be subjected, any inhabitant of any state . . . to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by the Constitution and laws of the United States."

SHOT BY OFFICER

According to reports already received by the Justice Department, Wright was arrested on a charge of assault and attempted rape and, while being conducted to jail, attacked the arresting officer with a knife. He was shot three times by the officer, who then took Wright to his own shack for medical treatment because the local hospital would not accept colored patients. Wright was then lodged in the women's ward of the jail.

About 9 a. m., the reports indicate, a mob of fifty or sixty persons attempted to remove the jail door. There were no local police authorities on duty. The mob was eventually dispersed by State police officers but reassembled 800 strong several hours later and against stormed the jail.

REMOVED BY MOB

Despite the protests of the local chief of police, prosecutor and two policemen who by that time had arrived on the scene, the mob removed Wright, tied his feet to the back of an automobile and dragged him at high speed through the colored section of Sikeston. Gasoline was then poured on his body and it was burned.

"From these reports," the Attorney General said, "it appears that the victim may have been willfully denied the equal protection of the law by the local authorities and subjected to the deprivation of his life without due process of law in violation of the civil rights statutes."

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

FBI TO PUSH SIKESTON, MO. LYNCH PROBE

MAR 21 1942

Atty. Gen. Biddle Hints Verdict Of State Grand Jury Won't End Case

WASHINGTON (ANP) — Despite the finding of a state grand jury at Benton, Mo., that there was insufficient evidence for an indictment, Atty. Gen. Biddle announced here last Thursday that the Federal Bureau of Investigation would continue its inquiry into the lynching of Cleo Wright at Sikeston, Mo., last January 25.

Biddle said the action of the state grand jury did not affect possible federal prosecution under the civil rights statutes.

FBI agents began investigation of the lynching on February 13 and a preliminary report for use before the grand jury was sent to Gov. Donnell of Missouri February 28.

Drawing attention to the fact that he was acting upon Asst. Atty. Gen. Wendell Berge's recommendation, Biddle said that the inquiry was begun "in view of the apparent failure of local police authorities to provide the prisoner with proper protection." Berge is in charge of the justice department's criminal division.

Mobile, Ala., Register
April 12, 1942

U. S. Starts Probe Of Negro Lynching In Missouri Town

WASHINGTON, April 11.—(AP) Jacob M. Lashley of St. Louis, a former president of the American Bar Association, will help conduct a federal grand jury investigation of a lynching at Sikeston, Mo., Attorney-General Biddle announced today.

Lashley has been named a special assistant to the attorney general and will join with Harry C. Blanton, United States attorney for the eastern Missouri district, in presenting the evidence gathered by an extended FBI inquiry to a grand jury which begins meeting May 13.

The case involved the killing of Cleo Wright, a negro, by a mob on January 25. Wright had been arrested on a charge of assault and attempted rape and was wounded when he attacked the arresting officer with a knife.

The justice department said an investigation showed that:

After Wright was taken to jail, a group of 50 or 60 persons attempted to remove the door, there being no local police authorities on duty. State police officers dispersed that group, but it reassembled several hours later and stormed the jail.

Wright was removed, tied by his feet to the back of an automobile and dragged through the Sikeston negro section, after which gasoline was poured on his body and ignited.

Biddle announced on February 13 that he had ordered the FBI to make an investigation in order to determine the possibility that the civil rights statutes had been violated "in view of the apparent failure of local police authorities to provide the prisoner with proper protection."

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Summon 15 From Sikeston

First Federal Investigation In History

BULLETIN

Sikeston Juror Quits

ST. LOUIS. — Lee Bowman, the only resident of Sikeston on the federal grand jury investigating the Sikeston lynching, quit Monday as a jury member. He said Tuesday by phone from Sikeston that he will not serve on the jury while it is investigating the lynching.

Jacob M. Lashly, special attorney general, refused to discuss the Bowman resignation.

MAY 22 1942

ST. LOUIS. — The first federal grand jury investigation of a lynching in United States history began here Monday morning, May 18, when a grand jury opened its probe of the lynching of Cleo Wright at Sikeston, Mo., on January 25. The jurors were selected from the eastern half of the state.

The U. S. jury investigation was ordered by Attorney General Francis Biddle who sent F.B.I. agents into Sikeston to determine whether the civil rights section of the U. S. constitution had been violated in the failure of Sikeston police to protect Wright from the mob which burned him to death after dragging his body through the streets of Sikeston behind an automobile.

Wright had been shot four times and was dying when he was removed from the jail and put to death in front of the Negro school.

It was reported that subpoenas were served on 15 residents of Scott county to appear before the grand jury.

Jacob M. Lashley of St. Louis, appointed by Attorney General Biddle to conduct the investigation, said that it would take several days to present the evidence to the jury. Lashley is a former president of the American Bar Association.

U. S. District Attorney Harry C. Blanton is not participating in the case. He is a brother of David Blanton, prosecuting attorney of Scott county (Sikeston) who presented the case to a Scott county grand jury which failed to find sufficient evidence to return any indictments.

MAY 22 1942

Sixteen of the 22 jury members were present as the lynching investigation got under way. Also present were Prosecuting Attorney David Blanton of Scott county, Sikeston peace officers and state highway patrolmen. FBI agents were the principal witnesses the first day.

Lashley said "We intend to proceed cautiously and to avoid any hasty action."

The preliminary jury investigation was expected to end Wednesday to be followed by further investigation in 10 days.

John S. Wood, banker of New London, Mo., is foreman of the grand jury. Other members of the jury are:

Lee Bowman, Sikeston, manager of the Scott County Milling company.

Creighton B. Calfee, Clayton, state liquidator.

MAY 22 1942

Vincent M. Carroll, St. Louis, vice president, Southwestern Bell Telephone company.

John N. Chapin, University City.

Edwin R. Christman, St. Louis, secretary-treasurer of the W. C. McBride company.

Edmund C. Donk, St. Louis, insurance man.

M. M. Drake Jr., St. Louis, secretary-treasurer of the Brady-Drake Photacopy company.

William J. Engel, Clayton, president, Universal Paper Box company.

The grand jury was impanelled on Wednesday, May 13, but dealt with routine matters before launching the lynching investigation. Seventy indictments were returned Monday before the jury went back into session to consider the lynching.

Clifford E. Espenschied, St. Louis, insurance.

Paul E. Fritzemever, St. Louis.

H. C. Hartkopf, St Louis, president Cass Bank and Trust company

J. C. Helfner, Farmington, Mo.

John J. Kavanaugh, St. Louis, insurance.

James D. McNeil, engineer, Southwestern Bell Telephone company.

Charles Mueri, St. Louis, president Mueri Realty company.

Maurice Phillip, Mexico, Mo.

William Schwering, Lutesville Mo., merchant.

Edward M. Thornhill, St. Louis, real estate.

A. H. Thost, Fredericktown, banker.

A. A. Waddle, Lancaster, farmer.

C. M. Walter, St. Louis, assistant secretary, Mississippi Valley Trust company

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MISSOURI

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Mob Flout Constitution Says Biddle

APR 18 1942

WASHINGTON

Mob violence is a violation of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, according to Attorney General Francis Biddle, who is asking a Federal Grand Jury to indict sheriffs and police believed responsible for the recent lynching in Sikeston, Mo.

Hold Officers Responsible

Mr. Biddle's view is that the 14th Amendment guarantees all citizens equal protection of the laws; that enforcement officers who permit a prisoner to be taken from their custody without taking proper precautions and without restraint are denying to a citizen equal protection.

APR 18 1942

The Sikeston County grand jury having refused to act, the matter will now be placed before a Federal grand jury, and if Mr. Biddle's interprtation of the law sticks, a new weapon will have been found with which to combat mobs.

Roanoke, Va., World News
April 16, 1942

Mr. Biddle on Lynching

While the Congress has repeatedly and after prolonged debate refused to pass a law making lynching a Federal crime, Attorney General Biddle believes he has found a way to accomplish that end without further statute. The results of his action may give the answer to the question of whether Federal intervention will be helpful in putting an end to a despicable form of mob murder.

A lynching occurred at Sikeston, Missouri, on January 25 under peculiarly revolting circumstances, when a prisoner already under arrest, but not yet tried or convicted, was taken from jail and put to death. A Missouri grand jury made the usual half-hearted inquiry, and reported that it has been unable to identify members of the lynching mob.

Attorney General Biddle has appointed Jacob M. Lashly of St. Louis a special assistant to the Attorney General to direct a Federal grand jury investigation. Mr. Lashly is a former president of the American Bar Association, and a lawyer of the highest standing. Apparently the Federal grand jury will devote its efforts less to discovering members of the lynching mob, and more to the question of whether the local officers in charge did their duty. Witnesses under local pressure may be unwilling to identify members of lynching mobs. But certainly no witnesses can without perjury fail to identify the Sheriff and his deputies. The Federal grand jury can at least ascertain what steps, if any, were taken to protect the prisoner.

Mr. Biddle's ingenious argument is that Federal statutes make it a crime to deny to any man his rights as an American citizen, and one of those rights, the Attorney General holds, is reasonably effective protection while he is in the custody of legally appointed officers. If it can be established that the victim, who was taken from jail by a mob, was not given reasonable protection, the negligent officials may face a fine of $1,000 and a year in jail.

The Baltimore *Sun*, long an aggressive opponent of lynching, suggests that this approach may be more ingenious than effective. The same argument that has been made against a Federal anti-lynching statute applies. For the juries are drawn from the same population that supplied the lynching mob, the same population that elected the Sheriff and prosecuting attorney. The most effective weapon against lynching is public opinion. Where that has been aroused, lynching has disappeared. If local public sentiment supports the lynchers and negligent peace officers it would be difficult to enforce regulations from Washington. If local sentiment at Sikeston were against lynching, it would not be necessary to appoint a special prosecutor from St. Louis.

The campaign to create a healthy public sentiment, without Federal intervention, has reduced lynchings from 231 in 1892 to 4 in 1941. A particularly objectionable form of crime is on its way to eradication. It is by no means certain that outside intervention may not interrupt that process. If Mr. Biddle is right in his reading of the law, a new Federal statute is unnecessary; if he is wrong in his method of approach, it may demonstrate that a Federal statute would merely aggravate the situation.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Recess in Probe of Lynching

MAY 29 1942

ST. LOUIS.—After three days of testimony in the Sikeston lynching investigation, the federal grand jury summoned for that purpose took a recess Wednesday afternoon, May 20, after setting June 3 as the date when the deliberations will be resumed.

Most of the peace officers of Sikeston and Scott county appeared before the jury last Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Other witnesses included Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gay, parents of Mrs. Ardella Wright, widow of Cleo Wright, who was lynched by a mob at Sikeston on January 25.

SIKESTON MAN RESIGNS

MAY 29 1942

Lee Bowman, the only member of the jury from Sikeston, resigned from the jury last week. He would not discuss his reasons. He merely left the courtroom Monday when the lynching case was brought up for consideration and failed to reappear Tuesday. He is president of a milling company in Sikeston.

Special U. S. Attorney Jacob M. Lashly, who is presenting the case to the grand jury, was asked whether Bowman was excused because he lives at Sikeston. He replied that he was not at liberty to discuss what occurred in the jury room.

Since the recess was taken Wednesday, it was learned that FBI agents went to Sikeston seeking more witnesses and information on the lynching to be presented to the grand jury when it is summoned again.

MAY 29 1942

The grand jury investigation was ordered by Attorney General Francis Biddle to determine whether the civil rights bill of the federal code was violated when Wright was not protected from the mob, which burned him to death after dragging him for blocks behind an automobile. When tied to an auto bumper, Wright, charged with stabbing a white woman, already was dying from four gunshot wounds inflicted by a Sikeston policeman.

SGT. DACE TESTIFIES

MAY 29 1942

Among those appearing before the grand jury last week were Sgt. Melvin Dace and Patrolman J. A. Tandy of the state highway patrol; Walter Kendall, chief of police of Sikeston; two patrolmen of Sikeston, the Sikeston city collector, Dr. Neeley, Sikeston physician; B. Walker, Sikeston grocer.

Dace was the first witness. He stayed in the grand jury room for several hours. It was he who was reported to have been in a state highway patrol car which led the line of cars in the lynching procession.

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

GRAND JURY FAILS TO ACT IN LYNCHING

Returns No Indictment

The federal grand jury investigating the lynching of Cleo Wright in Sikeston Jan. 25, virtually concluded the case Wednesday without taking any action, it was reported.

Atty. Jacob M. Loeblin, who presented the case to the grand jury as a special assistant appointed by U. S. Atty. Gen. Biddle, said he did not know what action, if any the grand jury might take at some future date. He stated there is a possibility there might be further deliberation in the case.

Numerous witnesses were brought before the grand jury during the hearing which opened May 18.

Wright was taken from the city court house at Sikeston and dragged behind an automobile and then burned. He was accused of an attack on a white woman and wounding of a highway patrolman. He was shot and in a dying condition when lynched by the mob. The grand jury sought to determine another federal civil rights statues were violatd.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

No Indictments Yet In Sikeston Lynching; Jury To Resume Probe July 20

ST. LOUIS, Mo. The United States grand jury which has been investigating the Sikeston lynching since May 18, adjourned for the Fourth of July holiday without taking any action in the case.

The Department of Justice announced from Washington this week that the federal jury will reconvene about July 20 "to consider the matter further."

The justice department, headed by Attorney General Francis Biddle, said that reports that the grand jury has completed its investigation are untrue.

Numerous Witnesses Appear

The jury has heard numerous witnesses in the case of Cleo Wright who was burned to death January 25 by a mob at Sikeston, Mo., after he was dragged over the streets of Sikeston behind an automobile. Wright was accused of stabbing a white woman. He was shot four times by a policeman before he was seized by the mob and was in a dying condition when tied to the rear of a car.

The federal grand jury was summoned at the request of Attorney General Biddle after a county grand jury at Benton, Mo., county seat of Scott county, had failed to indict members of the mob.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Sikeston Lynchers Cleared By Jury

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—Although the federal grand jury investigating the Sikeston, Mo. lynching on January 25 could find no violation of federal statutes, it did hand a special report to the department of justice condemning the Sikeston police for "failing completely to cope with the situation."

Sitting in St. Louis, the jury probed the possibility of the mob having violated federal statutes but according to the report, "with great reluctance has come to the conclusion that the facts disclosed do not constitute any federal offense."

Returning no indictment, the jury probed the possibility of the Cleo Wright, charge with attacking the wife of a soldier and stabbing the arresting policeman was "a shameful outrage."

"No more useless violence ever was committed, inasmuch as the facts disclosed that if the Negro was not already dead when taken from the authorities, he would have been within a short time."

gated the lynching of Cleo Wright, negro, by a mob at Sikeston, Mo., last Jan. 25, reported to United States District Judge George H. Moore Thursday that "the facts disclosed do no constitute any Federal offense."

Therefore, no indictments were returned in the case which grew out of the alleged attack on Mrs. Dillard Sturgeon, a white woman whose husband is a sergeant in the Army.

The grand jury, however, criticized the killing of Wright as a "shameful outrage against all the rights which Americans hold dear and a deplorable blot on the reputation of the state as a law abiding, peace-loving commonwealth."

It also censured the Sikeston Police Force for "failing completely to cope with the situation."

Wright, shot three times by arresting officers, was taken from the county jail on a Sunday morning and dragged through the streets behind an automobile, after which his body was drenched in gasoline and burned.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

GRAND JURY DEPLORES LYNCHING AT SIKESTON

Mob Is Cleared Of Federal Charges, However

ST. LOUIS, July 3[illegible] (AP)—A Federal Grand Jury [illegible]ch investi-

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Plea Is Made To Missouri Governor

FEB 5 - 1942

FEB 5 - 1942

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—(SNS)—Governor Forrest C. Donnell of this state has been asked to suspend and relieve of their duties Highway Patrolman Melvin Dace, the sheriff of Scott county, and Prosecuting Attorney David Blanton, because of their failure to act in the lynching at Sikeston, of Cleo Wright last week. The Governor has also been asked to call a special session of the state legislature to consider anti-lynching legislation.

The recommendations were made in a resolution to Governor Donnell by all the Missouri branches of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People at their mass meeting in Jefferson City Thursday, January 29, and came as results of an investigation by the state NAACP.

FEB 5 - 1942

CITES EDITORIAL

The NAACP also called to the attention of officials an editorial in the St. Louis Star-Times, which quotes a statement from a Sikeston paper edited by C. L. Blanton, who is, the Star-Times says, father of prosecuting attorney David Blanton. The statement calls the lynching a "warning to bad Negroes" and says that "this incident should be a solemn warning to night prowlers to leave the community or be dealt with in like manner."

The resolution charges that Patrolman Dace and other state patrolmen in highway patrol car number 84, called Negro residents of Sikeston who were known to them, told them a mob was coming, a Negro was about to be burned, and warned them to get off the streets. The branches state: "Our investigation reveals that said patrol car No. 84 was in the vanguard of the motorcade; that patrolman Melvin Dace and other highway patrolmen in the automobile with him made no effort to obtain the names of witnesses, description of persons, and of automobiles involved in this outrage."

It is also charged that the murder took place in full sight of the sheriff of the county, his deputies and the chief of police of Sikeston. The participants in the lynching mob were unmasked, the resolution states, and it took the mob hours to gather. In spite of this nothing was done to prevent it from gathering, no one was identified and no record was made of the license number of the automobile which dragged the wounded body through the streets.

ASK SPECIAL PROSECUTOR

Prosecuting Attorney Blanton was present while the mob was gathering and during the time the jail was stormed, and although he talked with the crowd, he made no effort to have any of them arrested, and was later quoted as not being able to identify any of those taking part.

FEB 5 - 1942

The NAACP branches asked that a special prosecutor be named in Blanton's place to take full charge of the situation and bring the guilty persons to justice.

The Governor was commended by the NAACP for his interest in the case. He ordered an immediate investigation and prosecution of those responsible for the crime.

Argus
St. Louis, Missou

PROMISES ACTION

JAN 30 1942

Governor Forest C. Donnell and J. E. Mitchell, editor of The Argus, exchanged telegrams Wednesday relative to the action which the Governor intends to take in the Sikeston lynching. The telegrams are as follows:

Governor Forrest C. Donnell
Jefferson City, Mo.

What direct action, if any, are you taking or planning to take to see that lynchers of Cleo Wright at Sikeston, Sunday, are prosecuted and punished for their ghastly crime against the state.

Please answer immediately before we go to press.
J. E. Mitchell, Editor

St. Louis Argus.

JAN 30 1942

Jan 28 PM 4 51
Jefferson City, Mo.
Mr. J. E. Mitchell,
Editor St. Louis Argus.

Am expecting Prosecuting Attorney to act vigorously and promptly. I shall not determine whether direct action from this office is necessary until I shall have had opportunity to receive full report from him as to progress.
Forest C. Donnell, Governor.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Governor Silent On Possible Action By FBI

Judge Charges Jurors To Be "Fair And Honest"

MAR 16 1942

JEFFERSON CITY — Mo.—(ANP)—The report of a special grand jury of 12 merchants, professional men and farmers, convened at Benton, Mo., to investigate the lynching of Cleo Wright, cotton mill workers by a mob at Sikeston, Mo., January 25, was made here last week to Circuit Judge J. C. McDowell, stating that it found insufficient evidence to return a true bill.

Read by the jury foremen, R. H. Mackley, merchant - farmer of Blodgett, Mo., in the presence of about 50 spectators, the report stated, "We, the grand jury, find insufficient evidence to return a true bill in the matter of mob activity at Sikeston, January 25, 1942.

MAR 16 1942

OFFICERS COMPLIMENTED

"We desire to compliment the state highway patrol and county officials for their work in connection with mob action."

Judge McDowell accepted the report without comment, and Gov. Forrest C. Donnell refused to comment on the action of the jury until he conferred with Asst. Atty. General Harry Kay, who aided in the inquiry. The governor said he would talk with Kay as soon as the latter returned from Scott county, and declined to say whether the matter would be put before the FBI, which made an investigation of the lynching.

Wright was accused of the attempted rape of Mrs. Dillard Sturgeon, white, wife of an army sergeant. She was stabbed several times, but recovered as did Patrolman Hess Perrigan of Sikeston who was knifed when Wright resisted arrest.

Wright, shot three times in his scuffle with the officer, was taken from a detention cell at Sikeston city jail by a mob of several hundred persons, dragged behind an automobile through the Negro section of the city, and his body burned in front of a church while morning services were in progress.

MASS OF TESTIMONY

David E. Blanton, persecuting attorney who requested the inquiry, said the grand jury heard the testimony of 40 witnesses, among whom were A. E. Jones, FBI agent; Sgt. Melvin Dace of Missouri State Highway patrol and other highway patrolmen.

In charging the jurors to make a "fair and honest injuiry," Judge McDowell urged them to avoid being influenced by mass meetings protesting against the lynching and asserted "the good Negroes and white people to Sikeston are as strong for law enforcement as the good people anywhere."

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Wire Is Sent To Governor Donnell

FEB 3 - 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(SNS)—A reward of $5,000 for information leading to the speedy punishment of those responsible for the gruesome lynching of Cleo Wright in Sikeston, Missouri, on January 25, has been proposed by the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties. In a wire to Governor Forrest Donnell of Missouri, George Marshall, vice-chairman of the Federation, commended the Governor's denunciation of the crime and suggested the reward, towards which the Federation itself pledged $500.

FEB 3 - 1942

Pointing out that the lynching "too closely parallels events in Nazi Germany and Hitler occupied Europe," the wire stated: "Only by the swift punishment of the criminals responsible can the confidence of Negro America in American justice be fully restored and the damage done to national morale and national unity repaired."

"We commend your vigorous denunciation of this crime and hope that is will be followed by equally vigorous action," the Federation's wire said. "The National Federation for Constitutional Liberties believes that an amount of not less than $5,000 should be pledged as a reward to any person or persons furnishing information and evidence which will lead to the arrest, conviction, and punishment of those responsible for the lynching. The Federation hereby pledges the payment of $500 of such a reward if other responsible organizations or persons will pledge the balance."

FEB 3 - 1942

Mr. Marshall and Mr. A. J. Isserman, Counsel for the Federation, in a letter to Governor Donnell, confirmed the wire and offered to supplement the Federation's pledge of $500 by helping to raise the required balance. They urged the Governor to cooperate in this drive.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

8 or 10 in Sikeston Lynch Mob Known

FEB 7 - 1942

SIKESTON, Mo. (ANP) — Scott County Prosecuting Attorney David E. Blanton announced here on Friday that the identity of eight or ten leaders of the mob which lynched Cleo Wright is known to State and county officers and their arrest is expected this week.

"At first, local residents seemed satisfied with the lynching," said Mr. Blanton, "and our investigation was blocked by a veil of silence. After a few days of sober reflection, however, the better element came forward to give us names of mob leaders and other invaluable information. We are now making definite progress in our investigation."

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

State Gets F.B.I. Date On Lynching

MAR 6 - 1942

MAR 6 - 1942

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. United States Attorney General Francis Biddle informed Gov. Donnell Saturday that FBI agents will be available to testify at a Grand Jury investigation of the lynching last month of Cleo Wright in Sikeston, Mo., and that a "confidential report" on the agents' findings to date is being forwarded to the Governor and to Scott County prosecuting authorities.

MAR 6 - 1942

Biddle said it has not yet been decided whether the Department of Justice will institute an independent Federal Grand Jury investigation of the lunching of Cleo Wright last January 25. If such a jury were called it probably would be at Cape Birardeau, which is the nearest Federal Court Division to Sikeston.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ANGRY MISSOURI GOVERNOR ORDERS ARREST OF LYNCH FIENDS

JAN 31 1942

SIKESTON, Mo., Jan. 29—The Sunday lynching of Cleo Wright, 28, and the resultant lack of any arrests aroused the anger of Governor Forrest Donnell, who ordered the immediate arrest and prosecution of the guilty parties. Wright, semi-conscious from three bullet wounds in the abdomen, chest, and arm, was taken from the jail by a fiendish mob of 600 persons, tied to the bumper of a car, and dragged through the colored section of the city at 70 miles per hour. The body was then taken to the grounds of the colored school, saturated with gasoline, and burned.

With no attempt to conceal his anger, the Governor said, "Regardless of how guilty a person may be, he is entitled to a fair trial in a court of justice. Cleo Wright was not an exception to this rule. The action of today's mob in taking the law into its hands is a disgraceful blot on the state of Missouri. Every possible effort must be made to bring to justice all who took part in this cruel violence."

Wright was charged with breaking into the home of Mrs. B. Sturgeon, who is said to have been seriously wounded when she fought off her assailant.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

SITUATION TO THWART ENDS OF JUSTICE

MAR 7 - 1942

Negroes Reason Death Almost Certain If They Talk

SIKESTON, Mo.—(ANP)—Two forces, the uncontrolled, unrestrained fear on the part of Negroes, and the steadfast silence of whites, combine and the most acrimonious act in Missouri history, the lynching of Cleo Wright, 26-year-old Negro at Sikeston, Sunday morning, Jan. 25, will go down in the records as an incident for which no one will be punished.

Being one of the first Negro reporters to reach the scene, this writer is in position to charge that there are Negroes willing to talk providing they are given protection. To name any of the whites involved, and there are some who could, would be sheer suicide unless the state militia was called out to protect them. After the trial, if the witness lived through it, an escort would be needed to get said witness out of Sikeston.

Justifiable Fear

No one argues that it's better to be a live coward than a dead hero, but the Sikeston Negroes want justice done. If sufficient funds are provided to tide them over until they can make adjustments in other places, and protection given them during the trial, there are some courageous enough Negroes to do what the whites refuse to do, name some of the lynch-party ring leaders.

MAR 7 - 1942

However, when these Negroes recall the brutal Texas courtroom killing of Bob White and Matt Flournoy, and the subsequent verdicts of acquittal in the Bob White case, and no verdict, as yet, in the Matt Flournoy case, their fears are justified.

MAR 7 - 1942

Flee In Terror

Terrified, and driven into a cold, penetrating rain that dull, bleak and drab Monday morning following the lynching, hudreds of Sikeston Negroes fled, never to return for their meager personal effects and household goods.

MAR 7 - 1942

With nowhere to go but to the grave after they talk, and no means of getting elsewhere if they could after talking, the Negroes sit tight and say nothing. Justice will be thwarted just as the laws have been flaunted!

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Suggests $5,000 For Capture Of Sikeston Mobbists

FEB 7 - 1942

WASHINGTON. (ANP) — A reward of $5,000 for information leading to the speedy punishment of those responsible for the lynching of Cleo Wright in Sikeston, Mo., on January 25, was proposed this week by the National Federation for Constitutional liberties.

In a wire to Governor Donnell of Missouri, George Marshall, vice chairman of the federation, commended the governor's denunciation of the crime and suggested the reward, towards which the federation itself pledged $500.

Pointing out that the lynching "too closely parallels events in Nazi Germany and Hitler occupied Europe," the wire stated: "Only by the swift punishment of the criminals responsible can the confidence of Negro American in American justice be fully restored and the damage done to national morale and national unity repaired."

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
April 12, 1942

FEDERAL JURY TO PROBE LYNCHING

WASHINGTON, April 11—(AP)—Jacob M. Lashley, of St. Louis, a former president of the American Bar Association, will help conduct a federal grand jury investigation of a lynching at Sikeston, Mo., Attorney General Biddle announced today.

Lashley has been named a special assistant to the Attorney General and will join with Harry C. Blanton, United States attorney for the Eastern Missouri district, in presenting the evidence gathered by an extended FBI inquiry to a grand jury which begins meeting May 13.

The case involved the killing of Cleo Wright, a Negro, by a mob on January 25. Wright had been arrested on a charge of assault and attempted rape and was wounded when he attacked the arresting officer with a knife.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Into Mob Action at Sikeston

MAY 15 1942

Federal Grand Jury Impaneled At St. Louis

ST. LOUIS.—The federal grand jury probe of the Sikeston lynching will begin here Monday, May 18, it was announced this week by District Attorney Harry C. Blanton.

The probe originally was set to begin Wednesday, May 13, but when the jury was impaneled Tuesday, May 12, it was decided that the jury would handle routine cases for the rest of this week. The jury was impaneled by U. S. District Judge Charles B. Davis.

Blanton, who is a relative of the David Blanton, the prosecuting attorney of Scott county in which Sikeston is located, said that neither he nor his staff would actually participate in the investigation of the Sikeston lynching.

A SPECIAL ATTORNEY

MAY 15 1942

U. S. Attorney General Francis Biddle, who ordered the F.B.I. investigation and the federal grand jury probe, has appointed Jacob M. Lashley, a St. Louis attorney, as a special assistant to the attorney general in the investigation.

Lashley will be introduced to the jury by Blanton on Monday.

The grand jury will hear F.B.I. investigators who made a probe to determine whether civil rights statutes were violated when Cleo Wright was lynched at Sikeston on January 25. The jury will determine whether police officers of Sikeston and the sheriff and highway patrolmen of Scott county failed in their duty to protect Wright from the mob.

MAY 15 1942

Wright, accused of cutting a white woman, was shot four times by a Sikeston policeman and then, still alive, was tied to a car and dragged over the streets of the town. Then in front of the Negro school and church, his body was saturated with gasoline and burned.

EDITOR CONDONED LYNCHING

C. L. Blanton, editor of the Sikeston Standard, who calls himself the "Pole Cat Editor" wrote following the lynching that Wright got what he deserved and that the less said about an investigation the better because no jury in Scott county would indict members of the mob.

The "Pole Cat Editor" went on record as opposing any type of investigation and resented the intervention of the federal government.

True to his prediction, a Scott county grand jury summoned to investigate the lynching found "insufficient evidence upon which to base indictments."

Editor Blanton is the father of Prosecuting Attorney Blanton and of District Attorney Blanton.

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NORTH CAROLINA

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

WHITE JURORS SEND LEADERS TO ROAD GANG

Two Others Draw Lighter Penalties as Roxboro, N. C. Gives Justice

MAY 2 - 1942

ROXBORO, N. C.—White citizens of this community struck a blow at lynching which Sikeston and other cities might emulate, when an all-white jury convicted five of 10 white men on trial for attempting to mob a Negro youth held in jail on charges of attempted rape.

It was believed here that the sentences meted out to the five men were the first ever imposed in the history of the South on whites charged with attempting to lynch a Negro so accused.

Two of the five men, Coy Harris and A. P. Springs, were sentenced to 18 months on the road by Judge R. Hunt Parker. The other three, P. I. Holt, Johnny Holt and Willie Aiken, drew terms of 12 months each.

Their intended victim, Cy Winstead, 20, is now serving a two and a half to five year sentence in the state prison after pleading guilty in the January term of court.

Directed verdicts of not guilty freed three other defendants, W. G. Bradsher, Leb Dixon and Evard L. James, on the basis of lack of evidence for conviction. A nonsuit was declared Wednesday in the case of Tom Slaughter. The 10th defendant was W. J. Green, now in the army, who was not present for the trial.

MAY 2 - 1942

The jury, which deliberated three hours at the end of the three day case, brought in convictions on the charge of unlawful assembly. A verdict of not guilty was returned on the charge of inciting to riot.

The lynching attempt occurred last August 15 after Winstead was arrested. Sheriff M. T. Clayton called to Raleigh and Durham for extra help and when the mob attempted to force its way in both the front and back doors, shots were fired and tear gas used to disperse the mob.

The courthouse was damaged and Winstead was later removed under heavy guard after the lynch spirit had subsided.

Work by the state bureau of investigation is credited with being responsible for bringing the mob leaders to trial.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

5 Accused Get Jail Sentences

Cy Winstead Case Brought To Close In Roxboro

MAY 2 - 1942

ROXBORO, N. C.—Judge R. Hunt Parker sentenced five white men to terms on the county roads last Thursday after they had been found guilty by a Person County jury of participating in a mob effort to reach Cy Winstead, a Negro youth held in the Person County jail on a charge of rape.

Coy Harris and A. P. Spriggs were each given 18 months on the roads, while P. I. Holt, Johnny Holt, and Willie Aiken each received 12-month terms. These five were part of a group of ten who were indicted for "unlawful assembly," a misdemeanor under the laws of North Carolina and carrying a maximum sentence of two years.

OFFICERS TESTIFY

Solicitor William H. Murdock, in presenting the case against the mobsters to the relied on the testimony of county and state police officers and state bureau of investigation agents.

MAY 2 - 1942

Sheriff M. T. Clayton testified as to the general circumstances but mentioned no names. W. A. Baxter, corporal of the State Highway Patrol, identified Willie Aiken and W. J. (Bill) Green, Jr., as being in the crowd at the courthouse and said that P. I. Holt, W. G. Bradsher, and A. P. Spriggs were on the rear steps to the courthouse at about 4 a. m. State Highway Patrolman R. H. Sutton identified Coy Harris as being one of the men at the rear of the courthouse.

Four other defendants, Leb Dixon, W. G. Bradsher, Thomas Slaughter, and Evon James, were also placed on trial but Judge Parker allowed a motion of nonsuit as to Slaughter, and directed verdicts of not guilty as to the other three, on the ground that the evidence showed that they were spectators rather than participants in the mob action.

TENTH MAN IN ARMY

MAY 2 1942

A tenth man, W. J. Green, Jr., was among the number originally indicted but he was not tried because he had been inducted into the army.

Last August, Cy Winstead was arrested and charged with raping Pauline Dunn, foster sister of his white employer. While he was held in jail atop the county courthouse a mob estimated by officers at two-hundred, assembled outside the courthouse and attempted to gain entry or force the surrender of the prisoner by throwing bottles, bricks, and stones into the windows.

TEAR GAS USED

MAY 2 1942

According to Sheriff M. T. Clayton of Person County, tear gas was thrown into the clusters of men at the front and rear doors and some shots were fired before calls to Raleigh and Durham brought extra police help which enabled the removal of the prisoner to the state prison in Raleigh for safekeeping until the trial.

Winstead was tried a few months ago, when he changed his plea at the end of the trial to guilty of assault with intent to rape and received a sentence of from 2½ to 5 years in the state penitentiary.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

AN ALL-WHITE JURY

The report from Roxboro, N. C., that an all-white jury convicted five of ten white men on trial for attempting to lynch a Negro youth, if true, is an encouraging symptom that the South may yet recover from the disease of lynching.

MAY 9

The state bureau of investigation is credited with being responsible for bringing the mob leaders to trial. But this happened in North Carolina where there is less illiteracy and consequent backwardness than in the other southern states.

It is seldom that mob leaders are apprehended. Even when their identity is known to local police, no attempt is made to bring the guilty within the authority of the law. But here is a case where an intelligent sheriff summoned extra help from adjoining counties to disperse an angry mob that attempted to snatch a young Negro from the hands of the law. Such a display of elementary justice is so rare that we feel the federal government should take due notice of it.

37g-1942
Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Att'y General Orders Probe

WASHINGTON — (SNS) — Attorney General Francis Biddle announced Monday that he had ordered an FBI investigation into the lynching of William Vinson by a mob at Texarkana, Texas, on July 20.

According to information in the hands of the Civil Rights Section of the Department of Justice, Vinson is alleged to have attempted to rape a white woman at the Red River Ordnance Depot trailer camp, near Texarkana. While being captured he was shot and critically wounded. He was then taken to the Texarkana hospital for treatment where, it is charged, he was left without a guard or police protection.

It is reported that in the early morning hours of the following day a mob of approximately fifty men entered the hospital, took Vinson from his bed, tied one end of a rope around his neck and the other end to the rear bumper of an automobile, and dragged him through the streets of the town. When the cavalcade of several automobiles reached the grounds of the Texarkana Cotton-Oil Corporation, Vinson's body was hanged from a winch on the loading platform.

The investigation ordered by the Attorney General is for the purpose of determining whether the identity of the lynchers can be learned and whether they can be prosecuted under the Federal Civil Rights Statutes.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Hint Texarkana Hospital Sued Over Lynching

Victim's Sister Seeks Damages For Mob Action

TEXARKANA, Tex. — (ANP) — Unconfirmed reports emanating from reliable sources say the sister of William Vinson, Shreveport Negro, who was abducted from the Texarkana hospital and lynched here by a Texas mob Monday morning, July 13, at 12:32 o'clock has already sued or will sue the hospital and others known to be negligent in not protecting Vinson.

Damages asked or to be asked were not divulged by the informant.

The name of Vinson's sister was not obtained, but she is said to be backed by an influential white woman who has known her for years. The white woman who is backing Vinson's sister is alleged to have come here

TEXAS

6895

6895

THE TEXARKANA AFFAIR—

What has happened in Texarkana may happen in any city or town in the South. Naturally we hope that it never will. The lynching, followed by the intimidation of Negro citizens, is an all-too-familiar technique that has been used in Pittsburg and Lufkin, Texas, and in towns and cities in other states in the South.

If the FBI is investigating, and we hope that it is, it may be one of the many means that will have to be used to lay bare the causative factors in riots and interracial flare-ups.

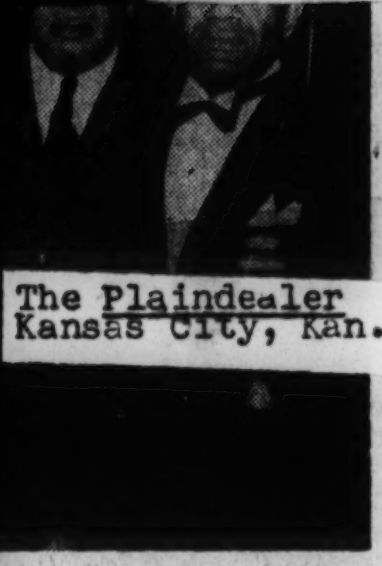
It is regrettable that in this Year of our Lord 1942 (almost eight decades from legal slavery) when we of the U. S. A. need a united front, a second front and then some, that so much energy is spent on the intimidation of already intimidated Negroes instead of on Japs and Nazis.

It is hoped that the investigation of the Texarkana affair will be a thoroughgoing one. It is one thing for an agency to quell a riot, and another for the instigators of wrong to be apprehended and brought to justice. Until those who take the law in their own hands are shown that there are officers (although sometimes conspicuously absent) whose duty it is to enforce the law, there will always be numerous unidentified, self-styled champions of white citizens' rights.

Although it is easier to play football on the sideline than on the field, it is hoped that Texarkana citizens will not hinder federal agents by withholding information that may be useful in the fair settlement of the affair.

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE ARCHIVES

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.



arborn and Great Lakes lodges. Elks at festivities and bottom, Ruler Wilson (right) shakes the hand of Exalted Ruler Gray of Champaign, Ill.

ers of Greater

FBI To Take Hand In Sikeston Lynch Mob Case

FEB 21 1942

(Continued from Page 1)

Civil Liberties Union for the apprehension of members of a planter mob in Carruthersville, Mo., be offered for information leading to the arrest of Sikeston mobbists Five hundred dollars is the amount of the reward.

(3) The report of an investigation conducted for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People by Mr. and Mrs. Benoist Tompkins of St. Louis who spent 24 hours in Sikeston four days after the lynching, questioning leading whites in the community and leading Negroes in Sunset Addition, the Negro ghetto.

According to the Tompkinses white citizens in Sikeston will not testify against each other in any prosecution for guilt in the lynching of Cleo Wright there January 25, and they use the threat of a race riot to prevent further investigation and publicity.

Mob "Just Folks"

The make-up of the mob was described as being "just folks . . . not like our last lynching . . . done by the upper classes." Southeast Missouri's last lynching was in Mississippi county, December 18, 1924, when a mob stormed the jail and took out a Negro accused of raping a white girl.

Fear of Negroes, the need to "keep the Negro in his place" and the feudal nature of southeast Missouri, where a very few people own all the land and the rest are vassals, are behind the story of the brutal lynching, the Tompkinses reported.

"Along with this feeling runs a genuine fear of the Negro's physical violence. 'Negroes are **naturally** vicious,' they said, 'with less control over their emotions.' It follows that 'violence is necessary to keep them subservient.' It also follows that killing a Negro is not a crime like killing a white man, because the Negro is closer to brute than to an independent human individual with human rights. There is a carry-over of feeling in Sikeston today that goes back to the old-time southern idea that 'every white man had to have several colored girls, and kill one nigger, before he became a man indeed.'"

The investigators said: "We were given the definite impression that the lynchers would not be ostracized by the community; on the other hand those who might **testify against** the lynchers would be ostracized. Even the most liberal man to whom we spoke said that had he witnessed the crime (which he had not) he would 'not be inclined to testify.'"

FEB 21 1942

Negroes themselves are afraid to identify any of the mob even though they saw the entire proceedings and know those responsible.

One man in the Sunset Addition on being questioned by the Tompkinses was terrified and said he would not talk "to white folks." "We did not ask him to talk," the investigators stated, "because it is clear that he does not have police protection in Sikeston."

Negroes "Too Cocky"

"One person suggested that the tensions between poor white and Negro labor might have some bearing on the lynching. The poor whites object to equality with the Negro even more than the wealthy ones. Racial feelings are more bitter among the poor, because 'if they can't feel superior to the Negro, what would they feel superior about?' Many of this class of workers were in the lynching crowd."

The report also revealed that the lynching of Cleo Wright was not an isolated incident, but that tension had been growing over a period of time. Feeling had been growing that Negroes were getting "too cocky."

"There is increasing feeling against labor unions organizing Negroes," the investigators said. "Negro labor is less subservient than white labor at present and employers do not expect this. With the threat of a labor shortage looming close, employers resent any encouragement to labor to become too courageous and demanding. Negroes have been the beasts of burden in southeast Missouri and since it is important to the economic set-up that they remain in this status, they are not encouraged to develop. The white people of southeast Missouri do not like independent Negroes. There was a growing feeling that they should be put back in the place where they belong."

FEB 21 1942

In commenting on their report, Mr. and Mrs. Tompkins observed: "The Sikeston incident points to certain breakdowns in our legal system: Under our present laws, lynching, which is defined as murder, goes unpunished, because the crime is judged in local courts by those who themselves believe in lynching. Young Prosecuting Attorney Blanton will hardy sacrifice both his career and personal friends, by prosecuting those friends who elected him to office. Even the most liberal of the planters said he would 'not be inclined to testify.' A local grand jury cannot be expected to indict, when it may have on it some of those who were in the lynch mob. Not until prosecution and judgment are taken out of the local courts will there be any chance of exacting justice."

National Lawyers Guild Demands Anti-Lynch Action

DEC 1 1942

New York, N.Y.—At a meeting is week of the Executive Board the National Lawyers Guild of hich Robert Walker Kenny of lifornia is President, the filing a brief as friend of the court is authorized in the government's it against the Associated Press.

In a resolution adopted by the oard the Guild declared that "The ontention of the Associated Press hat the Government anti-trust uit against the press is a violaion of freedom of the press is without foundation."

The Executive Board will appoint a special committee to study and report on the general question of freedom of the press and the dissemination of news in war time.

Condemnation of the Department of Justice was formulated in a report to the board by William Hastie, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War and Thurgood Marshall, Special Counsel of the N.A.A.C.P.

DEC 1 1942

Sharply criticizing the manner in which Special U.S. Attorneys appointed by the Department of Justice have presented evidence in lynching cases the report said:

"In the states with the worst lynching records, criminal prosecutions of the members of the mob never go further than a perfunctory investigation by either a coroner's jury or by a grand jury, ending with the decision that a person lynched 'came to his death at the hands of parties unknown.'

"During the past year the U.S. Department of Justice for the first time has been investigating several of the lynchings. The lynching at Sikeston, Missouri, January 25, 1942, was investigated by the United States Department of Justice and presented to the U.S. Grand Jury, which refused to indict either the members of the mob or the state officials involved. Due credit should be given to the present United States Department of Justice for this much. It is quite evident that more vigorous action must be taken by the members of the Department of Justice presenting these cases to the Grand Jury. The report of the Grand Jury on the Sikeston lynching includes a statement that begins with a rehearsal of evidence presented to it of the crime alleged to have been committed by the victim of the mob and then proceeds to find the victim guilty of the crime for which he was charged by stating that 'in this instance a brutal criminal was denied due process.' This was of course beyond the scope of the Grand Jury investigation and was unnecessary, uncalled for and indeed is contrary to the facts revelaed by other investigations."

The report further cited instances of violence against Negroes in uniform by civilian and state officials.

"An attack on a Negro soldier or sailor in uniform is a direct attack on our government. Unless the federal government is willing to protect its soldiers and sailors on leave as well as while on duty, it is impossible to maintain the proper morale among Negro soldiers and sailors and their families, and the authority of government itself is seriously undermined. It is impossible to develop combat efficiency in Negro soldiers and sailors while denying them basic civil rights during the period of their training.

DEC 1 1942

"One of the most serious consequences of congestion on segregated public carriers is the almost daily conflict between colored soldiers and white fellow passengers, whether traveling on duty or on furlough the colored soldier experiences the indignity of segregation. Moreover, he is often ordered to move from seats customarily set aside for Negro passengers so that white persons may be seated. With increasing frequency he is denied accommodations altogether when there are sufficient white persons waiting to fill the entire vehicle.

"In October, in Montgomery, Alabama, a Negro Army nurse was beaten and her nose broken by city policemen because she refused to vacate the rear seat of a bus so that white passengers might be seated. At about the same time in Norfolk, Virginia, two Negro sergeants were beaten and jailed for a similar offense. In some large camps a short furlough may be worthless to the Negro soldier because local transportation officials will prevent him from boarding trains or bus so that space may be available for white passengers."

Concerning violence against defense workers, the report stated:

"It is certainly agreed that American citizens have a right to go about their work without molestation by either civilians or state authorities. There are several instances where white workers incited by bigots have refused to work with Negro workers and in some cases have even committed assaults upon Negro workers. In some plants in the state of Alabama, white and colored workers are going to work armed in anticipation of racial outbreaks.

DEC 1 1942

"Now that the Ku Klux Klan i under indictment by the federa government, smaller organization such as Vigilantes, Inc., being spo sored by the Talmadges of Georg have come into existence. It is t duty of the federal government ferret out the leaders of these su versive elements aimed to prev Negroes from working in defen plants."

CHURCH CON

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NEWS CLIPPINGS FILE
TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE ARCHIVES

U. S. PLANS TO OPEN PROBE OF MD. LYNCHING

Attorney General Biddle To Study Possibility Of U. S. Prosecution

FEB 21 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C.—By way of investigation, the first of its kind to be made, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, by direction of Atty. General Francis Biddle, will enter the case of the lynching of Cleo Wright at Sikeston, Mo., on January 25 by 600 white mobbists.

According to Attorney General Biddle, the investigation will seek to determine if there was failure on the part of police authorities to give adequate protection to Wright who was in their custody at the time he was seized by the mob.

A subsequent federal prosecution would obtain under the civil rights statute which provides penalities of one year imprisonment or a $1,000 fine or both, for any person who "wilfully subjects, or causes to be subjected, any inhabitant of any state . . . to the deprivation of any rights, privileges or immunity secured or protected by the Constitution and laws of the United States."

FEB 21 1942

Other developments in the Sikeston case last week were:

(1) The petitioning of President Roosevelt by the National Negro Congress to make direct use of his war emergency powers in bringing the Sikeston mobbists to justice.

(2) The suggestion from many sources that a reward similar to the one posted by the American

See FBI, Page 2

Kansas City Editor Sues Police Chief

KANSAS CITY, Mo., (ANP)—[illegible]it was filed in Jackson County [illegible]rcuit court here Thursday, Jan. [illegible], against Lear B. Reed, former [illegible]ief of police, charging libel and [illegible]king $10,000 damages.

The complainant is Chester A. [illegible]anklin, editor of the Kansas City [illegible]ll, and other defendants named the suit are the Western Baptist [illegible]blishing company and Joseph E. [illegible]rown, Frank O. White and Sylvester K. Lovell of the Brown-White-Lowell Press, who are publishers of the former G-man's recent book, "Human Wolves."

Specifically the suit charges that chapter of the book entitled "The [illegible]rse of Communism" held the [illegible]mplainant to be disloyal, unpatriotic and un-American and an enemy democratic institutions and [illegible]endly to principles known as [illegible]mmunism."



INEZ WASH[illegible]

A new find of the season, Miss W[illegible] successful engagement at Smalls [illegible] closing at Smalls, she has many bid[illegible] spots.—Woodard's photo, N.Y.C.

Attitude Of A[illegible] Chiefs Rappe[illegible]

CLEVELAND — (ANP) — At the mid-year meeting of the board of trustees of the National Medical association which convened here last Wednesday, this official group speaking for Negro physicians throughout the country voiced its

[illegible]ts Pilot's A[illegible] Britain's D[illegible]

[illegible]s then given in full. Charles [illegible]he, whom the Civil Aeronautics [illegible]thority rates as a "flight instruc- [illegible] rating 0-375 horsepower, with [illegible] charges of violations," was the [illegible]ect, who in the course of years [illegible] spent some $7,000 in learning [illegible] difficulties attendant upon aero-[illegible]utics and flying.

Back in October, 1941, he thought [illegible] had solved the problem when [illegible] WPA sent him to a special train-[illegible] school in Kansas City to train [illegible] teach ground service work at a [illegible]A maintained airport in one of

1X; [illegible]t Summ[illegible]

[illegible]ler

[illegible]1, 1942 PRICE 5c

[illegible]ete [illegible]ia

[illegible]lows like a fiery [illegible]ed at a grueling [illegible]g air base job [illegible], a hurry. An [illegible] in sending [illegible] to the Middle [illegible] to Russia, had [illegible]fended.

[illegible]diers look back [illegible]weat and toil to [illegible] in record time.

[illegible]orocco

[illegible]ris for Lis-[illegible]an entry in [illegible]rned briefly [illegible] in a night [illegible]d a French [illegible]broker-[illegible]

[illegible]ontrary to re- [illegible] that the fam-[illegible]cer died in a [illegible]e and without

[illegible]irlwind career [illegible]re throughout [illegible] to the alter [illegible]g the bride of [illegible] man, French-Count. Before [illegible]gh France, the [illegible]was considered [illegible].

R. B. Brown Named To NYA Advisory

R. B. Brown, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People received communication from Aubrey Williams, administrator in Washington asking him to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee of the National Youth Administration for the fiscal year which ends in June of 1943.

Mr. Brown stated to the Plaindealer that he accepted the invitation because of the NYA's war program is of vital concern to the civilian life of every community and particular Kansas City where many defense industries are in operation.

Mr. Brown is a business man and is active in social circles, civic and political circles. He is a known organzer in the community with a reputation unmatched and gets things done for his people.

WILKERSON TELLS GROUP ABOUT OPA

Doxie Wilkerson, a[illegible] fessor of education [illegible] University and loan [illegible] the Office of New Yo[illegible] ministration, was spea[illegible] ner High School, Fri[illegible] on the subject, the O[illegible]

"We're facing a cr[illegible] come of which will d[illegible] destiny of us all, the[illegible] gan."

"At any moment t[illegible] become physically clo[illegible] sumed.

Following two racial outbursts in 72 hours at nearby Fort Dix, two soldiers, one colored and one white, are dead, and a white military policeman is in confinement awaiting charges of first degree murder. The first incident which occurred early last Friday evening resulted in the death of Pvt. David Woods, 23, a member of the 94th Engineers from a pistol wound at the hands of Pvt. James Greggs, white southerner, member of a task force outfit, on special military police duty at Fort Dix's Theatre No. Two.

Pvt. Woods, according to witnesses, was standing with a small group of soldiers just outside the foyer of the theatre. The MP is alleged to have approached Woods and ordered him to the end of the line that was awaiting its turn at the ticket window. Woods, witnesses say, told the MP that "a friend" of his in the line was getting his ticket. A dozen witnesses, some of them members of Greggs' outfit, testified that Gregg then shook his night stick in the soldier's face, and said that it made no difference to him, that the soldier would have [illegible] the line. Woods is sai[illegible] told the MP not to shak[illegible] in his face, and folding[illegible] turned half away. The[illegible] drew his gun and told W[illegible] if he did not move to the[illegible] line by the time that he [illegible] three, he would shoot [illegible] then deliberately counte[illegible] and fired, hitting Woo[illegible] abdomen, a wound from[illegible] died at 3:15 Monday m[illegible] Although only a few [illegible] men were at the thea[illegible] time, news of the shoot[illegible] like wild fire, and in a [illegible] the entire area was bri[illegible] loaded rifles. During[illegible] hectic two hours several[illegible] fired by enraged soldi[illegible] was all the officers [illegible]

Something of an a[illegible] last Friday's tragedy [illegible] ing of a white soldie[illegible] the same task outfit[illegible] dentified Negro sold[illegible] bus station here e[illegible] morning. The two m[illegible] group returning to F[illegible] over night passes, be[illegible] in a heated argumen[illegible] soldier is alleged to [illegible] for his knife, but w[illegible] on the draw. The c[illegible] witnesses say, drew [illegible] slashed the white m[illegible] throat. The knife w[illegible] through the crowd, a[illegible] died a few hours later[illegible] killing has turned th[illegible] fort into a virtual p[illegible]

Last Friday night's [illegible] the climax of a tense [illegible] has existed between [illegible] soldiers and a white [illegible] force outfit from a s[illegible] staging at Fort Dix [illegible] November friction [illegible] outfit and the 94th [illegible] caused the commandi[illegible] the white unit to pl[illegible] exchange and recreati[illegible] inside the 94th area, [illegible] the colored soldie[illegible]

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37h-1942

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Again Deny Paroles To Scottsboro Boys

FEB 25 19

FEB 25 19

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(ANP)—The Alabama Pardon and Parole board kept its record clear Thursday by again refusing to grant paroles to two of the Scottsboro boys who applied for release. They were Clarence Norris, serving life, and Charlie Weems, sentenced to 75 years.

The board made no comment in refusing the request. Norris and Weems are two of the nine boys arrested 11 years ago for alleged rape of two white girl hoboes on a freight train near Scottsboro. Later one of the girls, Ruby Bates, admitted it was a frameup.

FEB 25 1942

Since that time four of the boys have been released in a compromise affected several years ago. Effort to gain release of the other boys have thus far proven fruitless.

MERCY GRANTED DOOMED NEGRO

MAR 20 1942

Dixon Commutes Sentence When Girl Victim Is Found Unharmed

Birmingham Post
Birmingham Ala.

By United Press

MONTGOMERY, March 19.—The death sentence imposed on Everett Washington, 17-year-old Birmingham Negro, in Jefferson circuit court was commuted yesterday to life imprisonment.

Gov. Frank M. Dixon said he had examined evidence submitted by physicians which was not introduced at the Negro's trial.

Birmingham

The evidence proved, Gov. Dixon said, that the crime of criminal attack of which Washington was convicted, was not completed. He said he will recommend to the Pardon and Paroles board that the sentence be changed to 20 years imprisonment, maximum penalty for attempted rape.

At the clemency hearing, the Negro's counsel raised no question as to his guilt. He based his plea on Washington's youth.

"Physicians did not testify," the governor said, "therefore, the jury did not have benefit of the full facts.

MAR 20 1942

"Judge John C. Morrow, who before the case was tried, stated that had this medical testimony been brought to his attention, he would unhesitatingly have set the verdict aside.

"Further," Governor Dixon said, "It seems to me, should this Negro be electrocuted, a permanent and and perpetual stigma will rest upon the young white girl victim, a stigma lifelong and undeserved.

"Everett Washington richly deserves the full punishment for the brutal and horrible attack. He is unquestionably guilty. But he did not accomplish his purpose to the extent punishable by death under Alabama law."

Simple Justice

Birmingham Post
MAR 27 1942

In yesterday's Post we were taken to task by Judge George Lewis Bailes for an editorial denouncing laxity or indifference in the circuit solicitor's office which missed but by a few hours sending a 16-year-old Negro boy to his death in the electric chair.

BIRMINGHAM, A

The editorial mentioned no names because at the time we did not know who in the solicitor's office was directly responsible. In fact, our confusion was due largely to a statement made by Judge Bailes to a Post reporter indicating that he did not know who in his office talked with certain key witnesses whose testimony was not used in the trial but, when brought to the attention of the governor, resulted in the commutation of the death sentence.

37h

"Now we are informed by Judge Bailes that he and he alone is "responsible for what was done or left undone." Such frank admission is to his credit. It absolves from blame the office of solicitor as now constituted but it does not temper the resentment or allay the fears of those who hold that justice can know neither color nor shading.

MAR 27 1942

Rape is one of the most detestable of crimes. Under Alabama law it is punishable by death. But the law deals with attempted rape far more leniently, the maximum penalty being imprisonment for 20 years.

Certainly we have no desire to minimize or to condone in the least the wrong or injury done. But involved in the case is something far more important than any individual or the reputation of any newspaper.

The record in itself is a shocking revelation of frailty and human failure in our judicial system and we can be thankful for a governor with the courage to act promptly to right the wrong done.

The facts, as far as he goes, are largely as outlined by Judge Bailes.

A 16-year-old Negro boy was arrested for rape of a 12-year-old white girl. Arresting officers obtained a confession which was not denied in court.

The solicitor placed the case before the grand jury and an indictment was returned. Conviction followed a brief trial before Judge John C. Morrow, Judge Bailes himself, then circuit solicitor, handled the case. What he failed to mention in his statement published yesterday was that during the trial he ignored the statements of two reputable physicians who examined the girl and that although they were subpoenaed as witnesses and were ready to testify that they were not called to the stand.

It was this evidence which, when brought to the attention of the governor and verified by his own personal investigators, saved the defendant from the electric chair.

Judge Morrow, before whom the case was tried, interceded for the boy stating that "had this medical testimony been brought to his attention he would unhesitatingly have set the verdict aside."

Judge Emmett Perry, of Juvenile Court, who also urged commutation of the death sentence, communicated a similar opinion to the governor.

MAR 27 1942

Why was not the grand jury given the benefit of the doctor's testimony?

Why were not the court and trial jury permitted to hear what the two doctors told the solicitor's office?

Regardless of Judge Bailes' opinion the trial judge considered the evidence of sufficient importance to change the whole complexion of the trial. The governor gave it enough weight as to nullify the action of the Supreme Court. Were he les honest and courageous he too could have taken the easier way.

Perhaps we are a bit old-fashioned in our belief that it is just as much the duty of the prosecutor to prevent a miscarriage of justice as to obtain a conviction.

The life of the Negro boy no longer is in jeopardy but the bony finger of Death came so close to him that we shudder at the thought that human hands must balance the scales of justice with life itself at stake.

NEGRO ATTACKER SENTENCED TO CHAIR

Birmingham Post
APR 2 1942

Convicted the second time within several weeks of criminally assaulting a white woman, Leon Williams, 26-year-old Negro, was sentenced by Judge Robert J. Wheeler to be electrocuted, May 15.

The jury deliberated less than an hour yesterday. Several weeks ago Williams was convicted of attacking another white woman and a 25-year sentence was imposed.

In this trial the woman identified Williams, from the witness stand as her attacker. She testified that Williams thrust her down a railroad embankment.

Birmingham Ala

Both crimes were committed in Woodlawn.

APR 2 1942

Assistant Solicitor Willard McCall prosecuted both cases.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

DEATH IS PENALTY IN ATTACK VERDICT

APR 2 - 1942

Leon Williams, 26, Negro, convicted for the second time within a month on a charge of criminally assaulting a white woman, was sentenced Friday by Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler to die in the electric chair, Friday, May 15.

Williams was found guilty and the death sentence recommended by a jury which deliberated only a little more than an hour Friday morning. In the same courtroom early in March he was convicted and given 25 years. Both of his reported victims were white women.

The death sentence was decreed Friday morning after a brief trial for an attack on a young woman on the night of Nov. 10, near 53rd Street and Second Avenue, South, in which the victim's hands were bound and her mouth gagged with paper wads. She was found after the attack in a semi-conscious condition on a vacant lot.

APR 2 - 1942

Williams did not testify in his trial. The principal witness against him was the attack victim who accused him from the witness stand.

In his first trial Williams was convicted on a charge of criminally assaulting a woman he had overtaken while on her way from a nearby grocery about 9 p.m. The victim was seized as she waited at a railroad crossing for a train to pass and shoved down an embankment where the attack occurred, officials said.

Assistant Solicitor Willard McCall prosecuted in both cases.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Negro's Death Again Delayed By Court Writ

Frank Johnson Will Be Heard Next Week By Judge Kennamer

JUN 24 1942

Another last minute stay of execution was won Thursday by Frank Johnson, Jefferson County negro under death sentence for criminal assault upon a white woman, through petition for writ of habeas corpus filed with U. S. District Judge Charles B. Kenna-

ner. Warden Earl Wilson, of Kilby Prison, who was scheduled to strap the condemned man in the electric chair shortly after midnight Thursday, was ordered by Judge Kennamer Thursday afternoon to produce the negro in district court here Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. for a hearing on the habeas corpus petition.

After being notified of the court's action, Gov. Dixon issued the order necessitated by it, reprieving Johnson until after midnight Thursday, June 18. Earlier in the day, Walter S. Smith, Birmingham attorney who represents the negro, had asked a reprieve from Gov. Dixon, who refused. Smith followed with his petition for habeas corpus in Federal Court.

Johnson's conviction of assault upon a young Bessemer wife and mother was upheld by the Alabama Supreme Court, and the United States Supreme Court has twice denied a review. In the event Judge Kennamer should refuse his petition after the hearing Wednesday, he may then appeal to the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals and on to the U. S. Supreme Court once more.

In the petition for habeas corpus Thursday, Smith contended that negroes had been "intentionally and systematically excluded" from Jefferson County juries in violation of the 14th Amendment; that his client was coerced into a confession through "third degree" treatment by city police of Bessemer and a Jefferson County deputy sheriff; and that he was further denied due process of law by being held in jail "incommunicado" and not allowed to see a lawyer, for some days after his arrest.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
June 24, 1942

Negro's Counsel Plans New Appeal

Upon denial of a petition for writ of habeas corpus by U. S. District Judge Charles B. Kennamer yesterday, Frank Johnson, Jefferson County negro under death sentence for criminal assault upon a white woman, was ordered remanded to Kilby prison pending future legal steps by his attorney, Walter B. Smith, of Birmingham.

Judge Kennamer's ruling, however, makes it imperative that action be expedited by the attorney, else his client is without further recourse since the U. S. Supreme Court already has upheld the verdict of the lower courts.

The attorney, in open court, following the Federal Court's denial of the petition, indicated he would seek appeal of the case back into the State courts; but Judge Kennamer last night said counsel for the negro had decided to file a petition for appeal to the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Judge Kennamer has set Thursday at 11 a.m. as time for the new hearing.

The appeal for a writ of habeas corpus was based upon two points that were not included in previous appeals—that the defendant, at the time of his trial, was not represented by competent counsel, and that Jefferson County deliberately and consistently excluded negroes from the trial juries.

The Federal Court here dismissed the petition on the grounds that the condemned man had not given the Alabama State courts an opportunity to pass on either of the two new points included in the appeal.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

HABEAS CORPUS WRIT IS DENIED

U. S. Court Turns Down Plea Of Man Under Death Sentence

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 5—(AP)—The United States Circuit Court of Appeals here Thursday affirmed judgment of the Middle Alabama District Court, dismissing without prejudice a habeas corpus petition seeking release from Kilby Prison of Frank Johnson, alias Bradley Johnson, Negro, convicted of criminal attack in Bessemer, Ala.

The death sentence was affirmed by the Alabama Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court of the United States denied writs, after which Johnson sought his release under federal habeas corpus on the racial issue.

His petition alleged that appellant was denied the equal protection of the laws as guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment, in that the State of Alabama systematically and intentionally excluded Negroes from the grand and petit juries which indicted and convicted him," the circuit court opinion stated.

The federal district court discharged the writ and dismissed the petition without prejudice on the ground that the defendant had not sought first to avail himself of the privilege of habeas corpus provided in state courts under the constitution of the State of Alabama.

The circuit court added that there was no unusual circumstance in this case that would relieve the appellant from the duty of invoking the privilege of writ of habeas corpus available to him in state court.

The circuit court also affirmed the conviction of Cecil Cummings in the Northern Alabama district on a charge of violating the selective training and service act by failing to report changes of address to his local draft board. The court said that at the time of registration Cummings was in jail at Birmingham.

6896

37h-1942

ARKANSAS

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

NEGRO IS SENTENCED TO DIE FOR ASSAULT

FEB 14 1942

Stony Allison To Go To Electric Chair April 17

FEB 14 1942

Special to The Commercial Appeal

ARKANSAS CITY, Ark., Feb. 13.—Stony Allison, young negro ex-convict, tried and convicted here recently for the rape of a McGehee matron, was sentenced by Circuit Judge T. G. Parham here Friday morning to die in the electric chair on April 17.

Attorneys entered formal application for a new trial, which was denied, with 50 days allowed for appeal to the Supreme Court.

Told to stand for formal sentencing, the negro was asked by Judge Parham if he had anything to say. He replied that he "guessed not."

From an undisclosed jail, Allison was brought here by members of the State Police and Tom Cogbill, superintendent of the state farms, and assistants, all in plainclothes. Few spectators were in the courtroom.

In the Governor's office is a letter from the White House signed by Mrs. Roosevelt's secretary and relaying to Governor Adkins charges made by Clara Holmes of Brinkley, who described herself as Allison's mother, that the negro had been beaten in an effort to force a confession from him.

The woman's letter asks the President and Mrs. Roosevelt "to please investigate this case and see that he (Allison) is given another trial and that he gets justice."

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

NEGRO GRANTED STAY FROM ELECTRIC CHAIR

APR 1 5 1942

Desha Countian Wins Appeal In Attack Conviction

From The Commercial Appeal
Little Rock Bureau

LITTLE ROCK, April 14.—Stoney Allison, 19-year-old negro sentenced to death in Desha County for criminally attacking a white woman, won a stay of execution Tuesday when the Supreme Court granted an appeal and issued a writ of certiorari to the lower court for a complete transcript of the trial.

Allison was sentenced to die April 17. Electrocution will be delayed until the appeal can be heard and, if the conviction is affirmed, a new death date set by the Governor.

The negro was convicted Feb. 4 at McGeh

APR 15 1942

Included in the file on the case

37h-1942
New Masses
New York, N. Y.

CALIFORNIA

6898

The Festus Coleman Case

NOV 3 - 1942

THERE'S a certain regional division of labor among lynchers: in the South they use the rope, in the North they use the courts. An instance of the latter method is the case of Festus Coleman. Some sixteen months ago Coleman, a Negro worker on WPA, stood "trial" in a San Francisco court on charges of rape and robbery. There were no Negroes on the jury; in fact, Coleman was the only Negro permitted in the courtroom. He was represented by an incompetent and, it later turned out, dishonest lawyer. The judge, who has since died, was known for his anti-Negro prejudices. Within two days the jury brought in a "guilty" verdict and the judge pronounced sentence: sixty-five years in prison.

What had Festus Coleman done? Strolling in a San Francisco park one night, he had come across a white army lieutenant making love to a girl. Angered by the fact that the Negro had stumbled onto the scene, the lieutenant insulted Coleman and then beat him with the aid of a friend, another lieutenant. They then dragged him off to a police station and told a penny-thriller story about masks, robbery, and attempted rape. No evidence of robbery, no mask were found on Coleman but the lieutenants went back to the scene of the beating and "found" the evidence themselves. Coleman has been in prison since.

NOV 3 - 1942

However, the case has not rested there. As in the Scottsboro frameup, protests, demands for a fair trial have come even from the South, as far as Florida. It is significant that Atty. Gen. Earl Warren of California, Hoover-minded candidate for governor, attempted to whitewash the Coleman trial. The defeatist forces, North and South, know the uses of Jim Crow in planting racial antagonisms and weakening morale. It is in Governor Olson's power to liberate Coleman. To do so, we feel, would greatly strengthen his candidacy for reelection. More important, it would open a cell in San Quentin, releasing an innocent citizen and serving notice that the fight against Hitler goes on along all fronts. We ask our readers to wire Governor Olson, urging him to free Festus Coleman at once.

NOV 3 - 1942

Washington Post
Washington, D; C.

Man Hanged For Assault on 6-Year-Old Girl

JAN 10 1942

By the Associated Press

Wilmington, Del., Jan. 9.—Asking only that he be forgiven, Ralph W. Ernest, 33, was hanged today at New Castle County workhouse for raping a six-year-old girl.

He stepped unhesitatingly to the gallows, plunged through the trap door at 10:10 a. m., (eastern standard time) and was pronounced dead 17 minutes later.

Ernest, whose record included a score of arrests for minor crimes since he was 11 years-old, was convicted November 17 for the attack on the youngster in Wilmington's Brandywine Park last June.

The death penalty was mandatory since his victim was under seven years of age and the jury did not recommend mercy.

Ernest was the fourth white man ever executed in Delaware and the first in 12 years.

JAN 10 1942

37h-1942

GEORGIA

6900

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Pleads Guilty, Ordered To Die

FEB 5 - 1942

John Miller, 30, Wednesday waived a jury trial and pleaded guilty to criminal assault before Judge James C. Davis, of the Stone Mountain Circuit court, in Decatur, receiving the maximum penalty—death in the electric chair.

Miller made no statement when Judge Davis sentenced him to death in the electric chair at Tattnall March 6.

The condemned man was charged with attacking the wife of a white farmer living in DeKalb county two weeks ago.

FEB 5 - 1942

Miller also was known as Henry Smith.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Doomed Negro Hires Attorney To Conduct Fight for Retrial

FEB 14 1942

Robert Walker, Jones county Negro who objected to his court-appointed lawyers before he was sentenced to die on Friday the Thirteenth for criminally assaulting a white woman, has employed a Macon attorney and hearing on his motion for a new trial has been delayed.

T. A. Jacobs, jr., Macon, employed to represent Walker, was ready to plead the motion for a new trial yesterday. The prosecution staff, however, has been busy investigating a double slaying, and had not completed reviewing the lengthy motion.

Judge A. M. Anderson continued the hearing until Saturday, Feb. 21, at 10 a.m.

FEB 14 1942

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Doomed Negro Gets Hearing Today on Plea for New Trial

FEB 21 1942

FEB 21 1942

Judge A. M. Anderson today will hear a motion of Robert Walker, Jones county Negro sentenced to die for criminally assaulting a white woman, for a new trial.

When Walker's recent trial began in Bibb superior court, under change of venue, he objected to court appointment of his attorneys, but the trial proceeded, and the Negro was sentenced to die on Feb. 13. Granted a hearing on his motion for a new trial, Walker now has employed T. A. Jacobs Jr., to represent him.

FEB 21 1942

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia
Courthouse News

Anderson to Hear New Trial Plea of Andrews on July 29

JUL 10 1942

A motion for new trial in the case of Sylvester Andrews, Negro, sentenced to die July 31 for the rape of a Negro girl, was filed in Superior Court yesterday afternoon by Miss Alene Hardin, his attorney.

Judge A. M. Anderson, who heard the case and passed the death sentence, set the hearing for 10 a.m. on July 29, two days before the Negro was scheduled to go to the chair.

The filing of the motion automatically stays the execution of the Negro and if the motion is denied, he will have to be resentenced.

JUL 10 1942

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Negro Doomed For Attacking White Woman

JAN 16 1942

Robert Walker, Jones county Negro, must die in the electric chair Feb. 13 for criminally assaulting a 54-year-old white woman near Gray, Dec. 21.

A jury returned a verdict of guilty 25 minutes after receiving the case late yesterday. Judge A. M. Anderson pronounced sentence. His attorneys filed a motion for a new trial, action on which was not taken last night.

Walker was rushed to the Bibb prison for safekeeping shortly after the crime was committed, and granted a change of venue from Jones to Bibb county court.

The Negro had protested that he had not been given an opportunity to employ his own attorney, and declared that he had not requested the court to appoint lawyers. His court-appointed lawyers, Guy L. Anderson, J. Pierce Anderson, and E. L. Jackson, told the court they were ready for the case to go to trial. They and Solicitor Charles Garrett said the Negro had made no previous request to choose his own lawyers. Judge Anderson over-ruled Walker's plea for a postponement on this ground.

JAN 16 1942

The victim, an invalid, was rolled into the courtroom on a wheel chair, and positively identified Walker as the Negro who attacked her.

Walker made a brief statement to the jury, and this was his entire case, as he offered no witnesses.

JAN 16 1942

The defense attorneys' motion for a mistrial charging Solicitor C. S. Baldwin of Jones county with making inflamatory remarks on the racial issue was over-ruled by Judge Anderson.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Colored Cases Pack Criminal Court Calendar

Roosevelt Reese Will Be Tried for Murder

MAR 18 1942

Seven cases involving colored persons are slated to be heard today in Fulton Superior Court.

Those slated for trial and the charges laid against them include: Roosevelt Reese, murder; Tom Snow, rape; Lon Evans alias Lemine, assault with intent to murder; George Warrior, larceny of an automobile; Robert Lee Carrison, robbery; Jimmy Paschal, burglary, and Claud Burdell, John Henry Seay, Jesse Collins, and David Perry, burglary.

MAR 18 1942

18-20-YEAR TERM

Convicted on a charge of assault with intent to rape, Raymond Robinson was given a sentence of from eighteen to twenty years in Fulton Superior Court Tuesday.

Robinson was tried on a charge that he assaulted a Beecher Street white woman on January 21 with the intent of having carnal knowledge of her. Judge Edgar E. Pomeroy passed sentence on Robinson.

Willie Green was sentenced to serve twelve months in prison after he pleaded guilty to a charge of larceny from the Beck and Gregg Hardware store. According to the state, twelve shotguns valued at $250 were stolen from the hardware store. The sentence was made to follow a prison term Green is already serving.

Robert Lee Porter received a twelve months sentence from Judge Virlyn Moore upon his plea of guilty to larceny of an automobile from I. J. Hogan on January 20.

TWO ADMIT HOLDUPS

MAR 18 1942

Horace Eberhart and Emory Robinson Tuesday began serving sentences of 10 to 12 years and 7 to 10 years, respectively, following their pleas of guilty to eight holdups and one of assault with intent to murder in Fulton Superior Court.

The pair admitted holding up three of their victims.

A pardon granted by former Governor Rivers to James Arnold before he had served any part of his six months lottery sentence, was revoked by Judge Jesse M. Wood in Fulton Criminal Court Monday after he had been convicted on a new lottery charge.

Arnold was first sentenced in May, 1940, but later released on appeal bond. The pardon was granted December 18, 1940.

Arnold was arrested again by city police lottery squad last December 29 and was convicted Monday. Judge Wood sentenced him to an additional eight months on the new case.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

2 Named U. S. Aides To Push 'Slavery' Probe

APR 23 1942
APR 22 1942

WASHINGTON, April 22—(AP)—Attorney General Biddle appointed two Georgia lawyers today to help direct an investigation by a Federal grand jury at Macon, Ga., into "the alleged slavery practice of William Toliver Cunningham, of Lexington, Ga."

The lawyers, who will have the rank of special assistant to the Attorney General, are Barry Wright, of Rome, and William Anderson Sutherland, of Atlanta. They will cooperate with T. Hoyt Davis, United States attorney for the Middle District of Georgia, in the investigation.

The Justice Department said in a statement that it had complaints of Cunningham had established "a system of slavery on his Oglethorpe County plantation."

APR 23 1942

"According to the complaints," the Department said, "Oglethorpe County Court records show that Cunningham has repeatedly charged negro field hands who left or 'escaped' his employment with past misdemeanors, re-employing them after their arrest and after short terms on the chain gang.

APR 23 1942

"The complaints allege that Cunningham recruited a substantial part of his plantation labor from local jails by paying the fines of negro prisoners and, in some instances, arranging for their bond and for the subsequent dismissal of charges against them. On one occasion, the complaints charge, Cunningham accompanied an Oglethorpe County officer to Chicago, Ill., to assist in an unsuccessful attempt to extradite three former employes whom he had caused to be indicted after leaving his employment."

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Miss Harden Faces Jail Term or Ban On Legal Practice

Miss Alene Harden, Macon woman attorney, must serve 20 days in jail for contempt of court or be prohibited from practicing law in any court in Bibb county in the future. This sentence was imposed by Judge A. M. Anderson in Bibb Superior court Monday afternoon, after the judge held Miss Harden guilty of forcing the prosecutrix to change her testimony in the trial of Sylvester Andrews, Negro accused of rape, last week.

JUL 1 4 1942

Miss Harden had an emotional breakdown after the judge held her guilty of contempt. Court had to suspend for 15 minutes until she could compose herself.

TIME TO DECIDE

The judge gave Miss Harden until 10 a.m. July 22 to decide which penalty she will take.

Clara Fudge, Negress, pleaded guilty to contempt of court and was given 20 days in jail or fined $50. Judge Anderson said he did not feel she could be held as responsible for the action as could a member of the bar.

In view of the manifest change in testimony of the Negro prosecutrix and corroborative evidence as to her character of conversation had in the courthouse hall and as to what transpired during the interim, the court felt compelled to find the issue of fact on conflicting evidence in favor of the state in the case against Miss Harden, the judge said.

JUDGE'S ORDER

"The fact that the defendant, Miss Harden, is a member of the bar makes the matter of great gravity and concern of the court," Judge Anderson said. "If she is temperamentally fitted for the practice of law and professionally qualified, then the offense was very grave, indeed. On the other hand, if she is not temperamentally fitted or professionally qualified for the practice of law, then the court would feel like taking a different view of the matter. The court, therefore, refers the matter to her counsel, Colonel Butler, and Miss Harden, with the understanding that if she will retire from the practice of law in all courts in this county and not appear in any courts in this county—with the exception of the Sylvester Andrews case, which she should be allowed to complete—then the court will enter up no finding of facts, no judgments of convictions, and no sentence. If she is not willing to make this agreement with the court, or if she makes this agreement and violates it, the judgment of the court will be one of conviction and the sentence will be the maximum as provided by law—confinement for 20 days."

The judge said he felt Miss Harden deserved sympathy if she were not temperamentally or professionally qualified for law practice, but it was his duty to protect the interests of the court, the lawyers, the litigators and the taxpayers.

ATTORNEY EXCUSED

Defense Attorney Earl Butler immediately told the court he could not and would not accept responsibility for making any choice of sentences for Miss Harden. He was relieved of this responsibility, but Miss Harden was invited to confer with him or court officials if she desired any aid in making the decision.

During the day, the Negro woman who prosecuted Andrews for rape said that the woman attorney threatened to have her arrested and Clara Fudge gave her a death warning unless she changed her positive identification of Andrews.

Miss Harden declared she had not threatened the woman, but

JUL 14 1942

Andrews trial, and yesterday at the contempt hearing she declared that "I say now that Sylvester is the man who raped me."

The state presented two white women and a Negro who testified they saw Miss Harden and Clara Fudge shaking their fingers "threateningly" in the face of the Negro prosecutrix just before she changed her story. The prosecutrix returned to her original story the next day in the

said the woman indicated she "wanted to tell the truth" about the case and was recalled to the stand by the defense.

D. Lee Churchwell, attorney for Andrews during the preliminary hearing, testified that the prosecutrix had told him that Andrews was not her attacker—after first identifying him as the man who

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Negro Gets Electric Chair For Assaulting Local Woman

JUN 11 1942

With twitching lips, J. B. Holmes last night heard a jury declare him guilty of rape in connection with an assault on a 45-year-old Macon textile worker here in May, and heard Judge A. M. Anderson pronounce sentence of death by electrocution on July 10.

The jury for the action-packed case returned at 7:35 p.m., less than two hours after it had filed out to deliberate on the fate of the Negro involved in one of the six assault cases which rocked Middle Georgia in April and May.

JUN 1942

SITS QUIETLY

Only few persons were in the courtroom to see the Negro lick his lips but continue to sit quietly as his fate was decreed.

The case went to the jury at 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, after Judge A. M. Anderson had given the jury charges for rape and for assault with intent to rape. He charged that the accessory in a rape or assault to rape case is equally responsible as the principal. Penalty for rape is death, unless the jury recommends mercy. In the latter case, the penalty is from one to 20 years. Penalty for assault to rape is from one to 20 years.

'LEGAL MURDER'

Thomas W. Johnson, one of the attorneys for the defense, terming the decision "legal murder," last night announced that notice of appeal has been given. He said the motion would be filed this morning.

JUN 1942

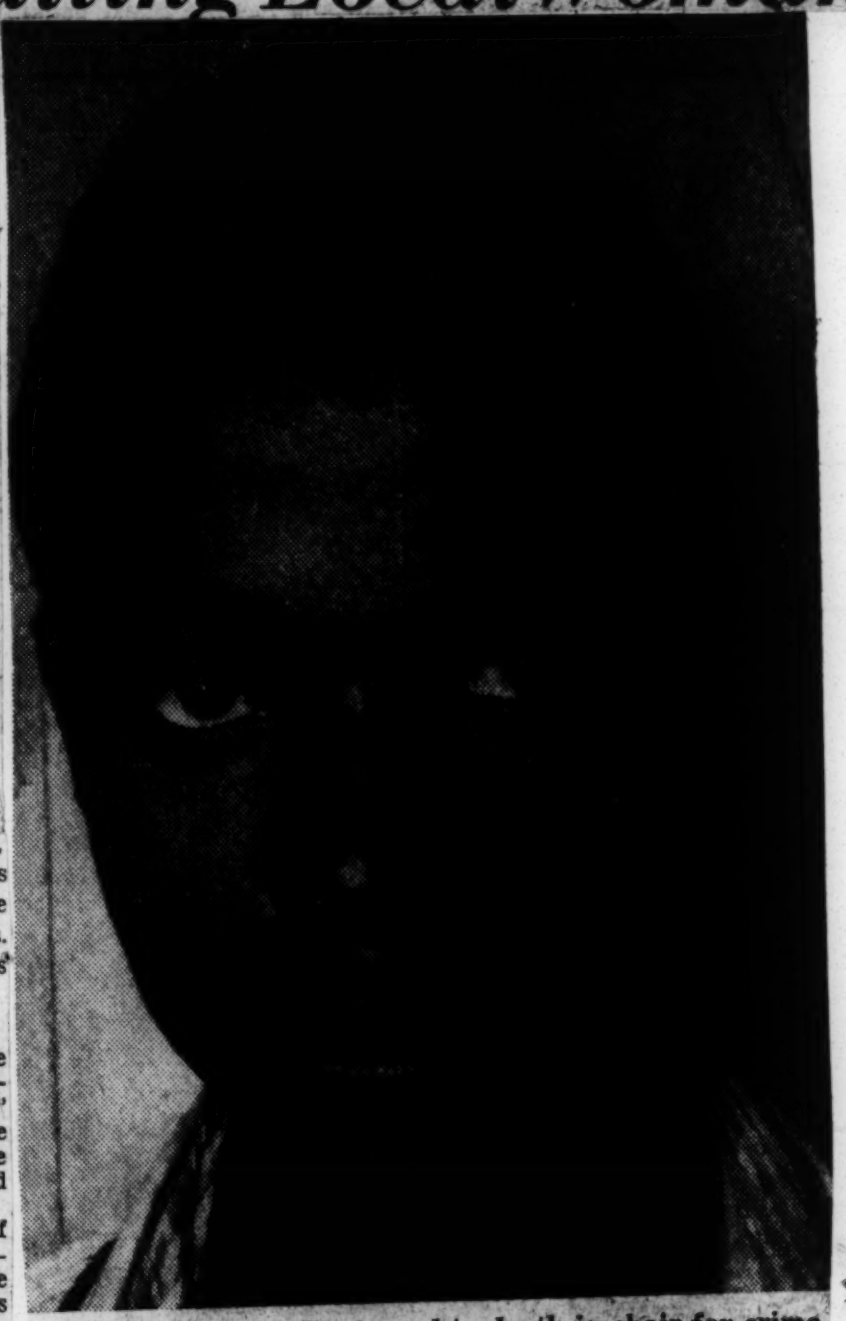
An appeal to "rid society of this man and let others like him—of any color—understand the penalty of violating the sacredness of the home," was made by Solicitor Charles Garrett in his closing argument.

Declaring that the woman victim had positively identified Holmes as one of her two attackers, Solicitor Garrett shouted:

"If this woman can't identify her attacker, who can? The courts are helpless if such proof will not hold up. If this woman is not believed, it will have an awful consequence on all cases of this kind in the future."

BLOOD-STAINED SHIRT

The solicitor stated that in addition to the woman's positive identification of Holmes, the state had produced a net of circumstantial evidence that tied him up with the crime. This included Holmes bloodstained shirt, and scratches and wounds on Holmes back and eye, Garrett said.



J. B. HOLMES ... Sentenced to death in chair for crime

The prosecutor declared Holmes' alibi had toppled through the inconsistency of the defense witnesses, whose stories varied, he said, in telling of Holmes being at home in bed at the time of the assault.

Jumping on the defense's dramatic courtroom experiment on hairs, Solicitor Garrett stormed:

"If there were cat hairs on that blood stained shirt they got there after the shirt was washed in a futile effort to get the blood from it."

He said a chemist, who was a defense witness, test[illegible] the shirt had been washed before Defense Attorney Thomas Johnson and Dr. Herman Kurtz [of Mercer University] found hairs on it in the courtroom. Garrett also said that Holmes, in his unsworn statement to the jury, had declared his mother had washed and ironed the shirt.

The solicitor laughed off the defense's charges that Douglas Nelson, Negro, was a sheriff's "spotter" framing Holmes in revenge. He characterized this as "an act of a drowning man grasping at straws."

He said "horrible proof" of the assault lay in the fact that the woman had developed a venereal disease since the night of the attack.

JUN 11 1942

LEWIS BEARS DOWN

Defense Attorney Arthur Lewis, in his closing argument, bore down on testimony and pictures of Holmes to show that the Negro did not have scratches across his face. [The woman said she scratched her attacker's face].

Speaking of the testimony of doctors, dentist, and chemists brought into court by the defense, Lewis said:

"Everything Holmes says in his alibi is borne out by scientific proof."

Doctors and dentists said wounds on Holmes' back and arm appeared to be bites, and were not knife cuts. [The woman said she fought her attackers with a knife]. Holmes claimed his wife scratched and bit him.

MISTAKEN FOR TALMADGE

Striking at the woman's positive identification, Lewis recalled a case of mistaken identity in court and said he, himself, had been mistaken for Governor Talmadge and other persons even in broad open daylight. The nearest light to the scene of the attack at 11 p.m., May 19, was two-tenths of a mile away, he added.

"I am sure that none of us would be willing to consign a good Negro to the electric chair as a reprisal for an evil deed by a bad Negro," Lewis concluded in asking Holmes' acquittal.

EXPULSION JUN 1 1 1942

Conflicts between Solicitor Garrett and Defense Attorney Lewis broke out during the concluding arguments. The solicitor asked the judge to expel Lewis from the courtroom if he failed to refrain from laughing while the state was giving its argument. When Garrett said it was peculiar the medically-minded defense had not had Holmes' examined to see if he had a veneral disease. Lewis offered to permit the state to call a doctor and have the examination made then.

As the solicitor charged that Holmes had stated the shirt had been washed, Lewis had the court reporter read from the record—the record said that Holmes had sent the shirt to his mother to wash and iron.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

July 31 Set For the Date Of Execution

Death in the electric chair was the sentence meted out to Sylvester Andrews, Negro, convicted of the rape of a woman of his own race, in Superior Court yesterday.

Judge A. M. Anderson fixed the date of execution at July 31.

Solicitor Charles H. Garrett said last night that to his knowledge this is the first time in 35 or 40 years that capital punishment has been assessed on a Negro for assaulting a Negro.

JUN 9 1942

35-MINUTE STUDY

The jury brought in a verdict of guilty as charged in precisely 35 minutes after members retired. Sentence was passed immediately and Miss Alene Harden, attorney for Andrews, gave notice she would file a motion for a new tria.

Andrews retained the same frozen, stoical expression he had worn all during the trial. Not even when Solicitor Garrett, in his summation before the jury, was painting the man as being a menace to all womanhood did the expression of utter indifference to what was transpiring leave the man's face.

ARGUMENT CHARGES

All evidence in the case was finished Tuesday night and yesterday was taken up with argument of counsel and the charge of the judge to the jury.

37h-1942

KENTUCKY

6902

Hazard Rape-Slayer Gets Death Sentence

"The Courier Journal" Louisville, Ky.

By the Associated Press.

Lexington, Ky., July 1.—Within six hours today, James Lee "Wildman" Robertson, Negro, was tried, convicted and formally sentenced to death for the assault-slaying of a church worker at Hazard.

After Circuit Judge Chester D. Adams overruled a motion for a new trial and formally sentenced Robertson to die in the state's electric chair August 7, Defense Attorney Lawrence Jenkins of Lexington said he did not plan to appeal. The stocky defendant had pleaded guilty.

Commonwealth's Attorney Billie Dixon of Perry County declared:

"I hope that the public of Perry County (Hazard) will be satisfied by the speedy justice that has taken place in this case."

Trial Transferred.

High feeling over the death last May of Miss Bertha Lehman, 26, auburn-haired native of Kingsport, Tenn., largely was responsible for transferring trial of the 26-year-old railroad worker to Fayette Circuit Court, Perry authorities said.

About twenty spectators, all of whom were searched before being permitted to enter the courtroom, were members of the Presbyterian Church congregation which employed Miss Lehman.

The commonwealth introduced fourteen witnesses. The defense offered no testimony and there were no closing arguments.

Principal prosecution witness was Perry County Sheriff Charles Cornett, who testified Robertson signed a statement admitting he slew the religious education teacher the night of May 15.

Robertson was quoted in the statement, read to the jury by the sheriff, that his victim told him "'You'll pay for this.' . . . I hit her twice with two rocks . . . I was drunk when this happened and I did not realize what had happened until county officers told me."

When Robertson was arrested in connection with Miss Lehman's death, he was at liberty on $5,000 bond awaiting a new trial on a murder charge, Perry County Deputy Sheriff Manual Cornett said.

In the latter case, Robertson was accused of slaying Sam Mayor, 28, in March, 1941. Cornett said Robertson also was charged, but never tried, with criminally assaulting Kayor's girl companion.

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Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

LOUISIANA

1 6903

"SOUTHERN JUSTICE" RULES IN LOUISIANA 'SCOTTSBORO CASE'; JURY FINDS SOLDIERS GUILTY

Prisoners Tortured For Three Weeks To Force Written Confession

N. A. A. C. P. MAKING INVESTIGATON

ALEXANDRIA, La. —(ANP)—Three soldiers who figured in the Louisiana "Scottsboro" case were found guilty Thursday by a all-white jury on charges of attacking 20-year-old Anna Mae Mason, a white waitress, at Camp Livingston on May 10. The four-day trial was held in a tense and grim atmosphere, and on several occasions the white witnesses. The white soldier is said to have been put out and Mitchell held the rifle on the woman while Adams committed the attack.

The three soldiers testified to the effect that they are innocent of the charges, declaring that they signed confessions only after having been tortured for three weeks.

Bordenave stated that he did not know anything of the alleged attack until May 25, 10 days afterwards. The other soldiers were arrested one week after the alleged rape. It was not explained in court why the delay in reporting the incident.

The New Orleans NAACP is investigating the case. tI is believed here that the organization may offer aid, for the mother of Bordenave declared "the boys did not get a fair trial."

According to the commanding officer, H. McE. Pendleton, the white soldier involved in the case has married the woman since the alleged attack. Efforts to find out who he is have been fruitless.

sphinx-faced spectators were heard to remark that the verdict had better be one of "guilty."

During the picking of the jury which took place Monday, Mrs. Blanche Holmes, the mother of John Walter Bordenave, one of the accused men, stated that she heard one of the natives say in French dialect:

"If the government didn't have charge of them (the soldiers), there would surely be a lynching.

Richard Philip Adams, Columbus, O., was charged with committing the actual attack. The other two: Lawrence Mitchel, Boldurn, Mich., and Bordenave of New Orleans, were charged with being aides to the act. The judge has not sentenced the trio.

Witnesses against the soldiers declared that about 2 a. m. May 10, the white woman and a white soldier were sleeping on a blanket behind a barracks on the white side of the camp when Adams and Mitchell drove by in a jeep. Seeing the two(Adams allegedly asked what they were doing. When told by the white soldier that they were sleeping there, Adams, according to the testimony, ordered both into the vehicle and drove off toward the Negro section of the camp, passing a white guard on the way. They declared that the white woman was forced to hide beneath the blanket.

Bordenave is said to have been on guard on the colored side, and when the jeep rolled up he let Adams have his rifle, according to

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Condemned Alexandria Soldiers Want Chance to Prove Innocence

NEW ORIEANS. — (ANP) — From their place of confinement, somewhere in Louisiana, the three soldiers sentenced to die Oct. 30 for the alleged attack on a white woman at Camp Livingston sent letters home calling the charges a "frame-up," and begging the people on the outside to "see to it that we get a fighting chance."

John Walter Bordenave wrote his mother, Mrs. Blanche Holmes of New Orleans:

"Dear Mother — Only a few lines to let you know where I am....I'd like you to write the NAACP and to Gen. Davis, our colored officer, and have them look into this case for us."

He went on to tell the number of days, since May 25, he has spent in the unrelenting grasp of "southern justice." "When they got you in jail here they don't want you to say anything, whether you are right or wrong. You know how they are down here, they make you say you did if you did not," the letter continued.

He concluded with, "You know the south. Write them soon and write me soon. Your beloved son."

Mrs. Alberta Dumas, Baldwin, Mich., received a letter from her son, Pvt. Lawrence Mitchell, white stated:

"Mother, don't believe them. It's a frame-up and the trial was a joke. We're taking the rap for something we didn't do. Tell 'em to give us a soldier's chance to prove our side.

Pvt. Richard Adams, Columbus, O., was bitterest of the three. His letter was short but filled with terror, swearing that the white women lied and that there are scars on his wrists to prove that the confession was forced "by razor blades that these people used."

"They beat me with rubber hoses at the army post....They told me that if I beat the charge the Ku Klux Klan would make everything all right."

He ended on the bitter note — "They tell me this is afree country for everybody!"

SEP 4 1942

Contact with the local NAACP revealed that it is in correspondence with the national office. No official statements were issued, but it is believed that the case may be appealed.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Parole Hearings Set Today for 46 Maryland Felons

JAN 14 1942

Annapolis, Md., Jan. 13 (AP).—John E. Kline, sentenced to 18 years imprisonment for second-degree murder in Frederick County in 1932, and 45 other convicts will be given parole hearings tomorrow by Parole Director Herman M. Moser.

Kline was convicted of fatally striking his brother-in-law, Millard Sines, with a shotgun near Middletown, Moser said.

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Other leading parole cases involve:

Robert H. Dobson, sentednced last year to two years for false pretenses in Montgomery County.

William H. Kelley, sentenced last year to two years for rape in Allegany County.

William E. Norris, sentenced last year to two years and six months for assaulting his wife in Montgomery County.

JAN 14 1942

Charles Robinson, Negro, sentenced in 1932 to 18 years for rape in Anne Arundel County.

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37h-1942

MISSISSIPPI

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Mississippi Supreme Court Says Rape of White Woman Highly Improbable, Saves Negro's Life

FEB 27 1942

FEB 27 1942

FEB 27 19

VICKSBURG, Miss.—The supreme court of this state has ruled that the "uncorroborated testimony of the woman he is alleged to have raped" is not sufficient evidence to convict Willie Upton, found guilty and sentenced to death on the charge in the Warren County circuit court here last spring.

The opinion was handed down Monday, and the N.A.A.C.P. branch here which is financing Upton's defense, reports that further action will be taken in the Warren county circuit court to which the case was remanded by the state supreme court.

The national office of the N. A. A.C.P. will assist in the appeal, set for sometime in March.

'Must Scrutinize Evidence'

FEB 27 1942

The case is an unusual one from many aspects. According to the supreme court opinion: "The appellant's (Upton's) defense was an alibi and physical incapacity and his conviction rests on the uncorroborated testimony of the woman he is alleged to have raped." The Mississippi court continued:

"This is an appeal from a conviction for rape in which the death penalty was imposed. The appellant's defense was an alibi and physical incapacity and his conviction rests on the uncorroborated testimony of the woman he is alleged to have raped. It is true that a conviction for rape may rest on the uncorroborated testimony of the person raped, but it should always be scrutinized with caution, and where there is much in the facts and circumstances in evidence to discredit her testimony' another jury should be permitted to pass thereon.

FEB 27 1942

"Without setting forth the testimony of the prosecutrix, to do which would serve no necessary purpose, it will be sufficient to say that it does not appear there from that the alleged rape left any marks of violence on her person and her version of how the rape was committed sets forth at least two highly improbable accompaniments of such a crime; in addition her own admitted conduct immediately after the alleged rape suggests that she was not then conscious of such a wrong having been done her and the then conduct attributed by her to the man whom she says had just raped her suggests that he was not then conscious of having so done. Whether 'a reasonable man engaged in a search for truth uninfluenced by improper motives or consideration' could safely accept or act on her evidence is so doubtful that another jury should pass thereon.

"REVERSED AND REMANDED'

MISSISSIPPI COURT REVERSES DECISION IN UPTON RAPE CASE

Pittsburg Courier FEB 28 1942

VICKSBURG, Mississippi, Feb. 28—The Supreme Court of this state has ruled that the "uncorroborated testimony of the woman he is alleged to have raped", is not sufficent evidence to convict Willie Upton, found guilty and sentenced to death on the charge in the Warren County Circuit Court here last spring. The opinion was handed down last Monday, and the NAACP branch here which is financing Upton's defense, reports that further action will be taken in the Warren County circuit court to which the case was remanded by the state supreme court.

The national office of the NAACP will assist in the appeal, set for sometime in March.

FEB 28 1942

The case is an unusual one from many aspects. According to the supreme court opinion: "The appellant's defense was an alibi and physical incapacity and his conviction rests on the uncorroborated testimony of the woman he is alleged to have raped".

6906

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

TWO WHITES CONVICTED IN LAURA WEBB TRIAL

FEB 14 1942

While America rejoiced at victorious news from the Eastern front, Brooklyn's Negro community was overjoyed because of a local legal victory which set a precedent in the punishment of sex criminals who prey on Negro women.

The victory on the local front came in the form of the conviction on charges of sodomy in the celebrated Laura Webb case. Found guilty by a jury which deliberated three hours after a trial before Judge Fitzgerald in Felony Court, were Santo Ariano and Theodore Nintzel.

Both are employees of the Val-V-Oil Company, operated by Sam Gross in the Flatbush sector of Brooklyn.

FEB 14 1942

The prisoners face five to ten years of imprisonment in accordance with the sentence passed after the jury heard Miss Webb, attractive young borough resident, tell the revolting tale of how she had been forced into intimate relations with Gross at the company's offices. Miss Webb, who came here from the South a short while ago, said that she reported Gross' conduct to the employment agency which had placed her, only to be advised to return and collect her wages.

On her return, she said, her employer scoffed at her demand for money, attacked her again and then summoned two employees, Ariano and Nintzel, and invited them to take advantage of her. She alleged all three men had also committed sodomy. This took place early in May of 1941.

The trial before Judge Fitzgerald was the second in the Webb case, the first resulting in a disagreement on the part of the jury. Evidence was heard to support the contention of the office of the district attorney that Gross has been guilty of such conduct in the past on several occasions. The New York State Employment Service in that area was revealed to have refused to send any more applicants to the company due to several complaints which they had received.

FEB 14 1942

Gross himself could not be tried on the charge due to the fact that soon after the accusations made by Miss Webb, he was arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced to an eighteen-month confinement on a Federal charge and is serving time in Lewisburg. Police attest that he is a dangerous character with a long and unsavory record. A warrant is out for his arrest and he is to be tried on the Webb charges immediately after his release from his current sentence.

Disprove 'Fix' In Case

A battery of attorneys under the banner of the Brooklyn Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People aided the office of Brooklyn District Attorney William F. O'Dwyer in obtaining the conviction. Results in the case were diametrically opposite to the loud-voiced charge of Brooklyn's Eva Sullinger that there had been a "fix" in the case. Sullinger's advice was at first sought by Miss Webb, and later taken up by the Brooklyn Branch NAACP which at first stipulated that before they would take any action, Sullinger must "get out of the picture." Lawyers who represented the Branch were Attorneys Norman B. Johnson, Philip J. Jones and Lewis S. Flagg, Jr., Fred H. M. Turner is president of the Branch. A total of twenty-eight court appearances were necessitated on the part of the organization's legal staff in the Webb case.

FEB 14 1942

It is believed that this is the first time in Kings County legal history that a major victory of this type has been won involving a white offender and Negro victim. In the usual run of cases of the sort, the outcome has either been the squashing of the charge, the non-cooperation or biased attitude of the bench resulting in the reduction of the charge to simple assault, or other unsatisfactory factors.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Ends Hectic Court Battle

FEB 28 1942

Judge J. Fitzgerald Levies Penalty In County Court

By TOMMY WATKINS

Two white Brooklyn men convicted by a jury of sodomy and assault charges lodged against them by an attractive domestic, were given a three to 10-year term in State Prison when they appeared before Judge John Fitzgerald in County Court on Thursday.

The pair, Santo Ariano and Theodore Nintzel, along with Sam Gross, owner of a Brooklyn oil factory, had been accused of attacking pretty Laura Webb, 19, in their Brooklyn plant. According to Miss Webb, she obtained the job through a borough employment agency and that her work consisted of placing tops on oil cans.

FEB 28 1942

On the witness stand she told the court how Gross ordered her to his office and criminally assaulted her. After he had left the room, she said Nitzel and Ariano who worked in the vicinity, came into the room, forced her against boxes and committed the sodomy offenses.

First action in the case came about when Commander E. L. Sullinger came to the aid of the girl. Shortly after his inception in the fight, the NAACP, under the direction of Fred H. M. Turner, president, Norman Johnson and Lewis Flagg, defense attorneys, picked up the issue.

When the case hit Felony Court, Assistant District Attorney Clarence Wilson scored the initial victory and the case was sent to the Grand Jury. Nintzel and Ariano were indicted on sodomy and assault charges, while Gross was referred to Special Sessions on the assault count. However, before the Gross case was reached for trial, he was returned to the Federal Penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pa., to complete an 18-month sentence under a previous conviction.

FEB 28 1942

During the County Court trial of Nintzel and Ariano, Attorney Johnson, with Phillip J. Jones, waged a hectic campaign. Assistant District Attorney Julius Helfand carried the case in its final stages with the accused pair being convicted of the crimes.

It was intimated at the time the sentence was passed that an effort was going to be made to appeal the verdict. Oldtimers in the borough told reporters that it was the first time in many moons that a white man had been jailed for attacking colored girls in the borough.

6906

Indict 6 Negro Youth But Protests Free 4

Daily Worker - Louisville, Ky.

AUG 28 1942

By ABNER W. BERRY

Indictments were returned yesterday against six of the defendants in the Harlem "rape and robbery" cases which set off a new "crime wave" smear against the Negro community.

AUG 28 1942

Four of the defendants received "No Bills," which means that complaints against them will be dismissed, according to the usual procedure.

Indicted for "rape and assault" are three of the boys whom both complainants, Charles and Ann Coleman, white youths, said they could not identify. The four are Willie Brown, 20, 86 W. 134th St.; Thomas Mitchell, 20, 92 W. 134th St., and George Barrett, 20, 472 Lenox Ave.

Edward Grimm, 16, 180 W. 135th St., was indicted for grand larceny, and Earl Long, 16, 3 W. 135th St., for "sodomy, rape and assault." John Reid, 20, 61 W. 133rd St., sodomy. Maximum sentences for those charged with rape and assault are 25 years; for Long, charged with sodomy, rape and assault in the first degree, 25 years. Sodomy carries a maximum penalty of 20 years.

AUG 28 1942

NOT IDENTIFIED

Mitchell and Barrett were arrested on the morning of Aug. 16, 1942, and immediately confronted with the complainants for identification. They could not be identified as having taken part in the alleged attack according to a statement made to the writer by both complainants. The other boys were arrested later.

The theory of those who know the procedure of the police and the District Attorney's office is that after utilizing third degree methods a "confession" is obtained from one of the defendants which implicates the others.

This is legally sufficient to sustain an indictment.

One of the defendants has reportedly confirmed this theory in a statement to his attorney. According to his statement one of the defendants did implicate others whom he knew after having been beaten while under arrest.

4 GET 'NO BILLS'

AUG 28 1942

The four boys against whom "No Bills" were returned were Thomas Alonzo, 110 W. 134th St.; William Evans, 79 W. 131st St.; Carrol Hall, 452 St. Nicholas Ave., and Ernest Thompson, 246 W. 129th St.

The mothers of Long, Reid, Alonzo and Evans assert that their sons were beaten while arrested. Mrs. Long, whose son is now indicted for rape, robbery and sodomy, and whose possible maximum sentence is the highest, had this to say: "Earl's eyes were so blown up when I saw him in the Tombs that I hardly knew my own son."

Mrs. Rosa Evans, whose son received a "No Bill," declared that her son's face was "so puffed up that it looked as if it would burst open if I touched his cheek with my finger."

AUG 28 1942

While the "No Bills" returned for four of the youths is considered a community gain and due to the alertness of the people, a group of Harlem citizens which met with Councilman Adam Clayton Powell planned to get at the facts in the reported police beatings and to push for the prosecution of the guilty officers.

The community leaders are interested also in developing a program much broader than a court defense which will bring some relief to the thousands of Harlem youths who face a dead end economically and socially.

AUG 28 1942

Led by the CIO the labor unions are acting on a progressive program for Harlem, scotching the attempts of the sensation-mongering, anti-Negro press to utilize the press-created "crime wave" for the purpose of isolating Harlem and its citizens. This smear attempt is seen as a scheme to drive a wedge between Negro and white at a time when there is the greatest need for unity in the all-out war effort.

MASS MEETING MONDAY

On the initiative of the Negro Labor Victory Committee a mass meeting has been called for Monday, Aug. 31, at 7:30 P. M. in Golden Gate Arena, 142nd St. and Lenox Ave., to combat the smear campaign and outline a city program for relieving the conditions in Harlem. Cooperating in the meeting are a number of trade unions and the Greater New York Coordinating Committee on Employment. The latter is led by Harlem's fighting minister-Councilman Adam Clayton Powell.

AUG 28 1942

Among the speakers listed are: Rev. Thomas S. Harten of Brooklyn, James Lustig, District Organizer of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America; Councilman Powell, Sam Burt, Manager of the Joint Board of the Fur Dressers and Dyers Union; Ferdinand Smith, National Secretary of the National Maritime Union.

Peoples Voice
New York N. Y.

Harlem 'Scottsboro' Case Ends in Four Convictions

The famous Harlem rooftop case ended in temporary defeat Friday, Nov. 30, when four Harlem youths, charged with attacking a 27-year-old white woman on a 135 street rooftop last Aug 16 were convicted of first degree rape by an all-white jury in General Sessions Court. The boys will be sentenced December 4 by Judge John J. Sullivan.

Present efforts to mitigate the sentence the boys may receive (they face up to 20 years) are concentrated on an effort of a citizens committee to get members of the community to write to Judge Sullivan, 100 Center st, Court of General Sessions, urging that in sentencing them he consider the background of the boys, the fact that they are schoolboys, and that a severe sentence will ruin their future lives.

PUBLIC SENTIMENT

The committee, headed by Rev. L. S. Taylor of La Gree Baptist church, 71 W 132 st, is arousing public sentiment because it feels that the boys are innocent since the Coleman woman's testimony pointed to a group of older men. A mass meeting held Sunday, Nov. 22, at Rev. Taylor's church depicted the boys as victims of their environment, stressed the fact that the lawyers who defended them were so convinced of their innocence they took the case tho funds for paying them were not available.

The convicted youths are William Brown, 20, of 86 W 134 st; Stanley Adams, 16, of 23 W 111 st; Thomas Mitchell, 20, of 92 W 134 st; and George Barrett, 19, of 472 Lenox ave.

The case in many of its aspects is similar to the Alabama Scottsboro case. Anna Coleman, 24-year-old white woman, and her brother, Charles, 27, of 202 W 108 st charged that they were waiting for a bus at 134 st when the woman's purse was snatched by two boys. The brother and sister pursued the boys to a rooftop at 101 W 133 st, where they alleged 10 men were waiting. The woman claims to have been stripped of her clothing and attacked by six of the men.

THE CASE IN REVIEW

Eleven youths were arrested, including the four listed above. Earl Long, 16, of 3 W 135 st, pleaded guilty almost immediately after his arrest. He will be sentenced at the same time as the others who have been convicted. A sixth was indicted for sodomy and a seventh for purse-snatching. The other four were freed for lack of sufficient evidence.

The lawyers who defended the boys were Vernal Williams, Patrick Dempsey and George Wandermann. Attorney Williams headed the defense. They attempted to prove that the police had intimidated the chief state witnesses, two young boys. Most damaging witness during the trial was Rudolph Hicks, 17, of 388 St. Nicholas ave, who claimed to be an eye-witness to the attacks. Despite a week of grilling cross-examination by the defense, his story remained unshaken.

In the course of the trial the defense succeeded in getting the Coleman woman and her brother to admit that they frequently attended parties in Harlem, and that she had consorted with Negroes.

The jury which turned in the guilty verdict was composed of seven men and five women. They deliberated for two hours and 38 minutes before returning the verdict.

Judge John J. Sullivan has set Dec. 4 as the date for sentencing the boys.

6907

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

'Innocent' Youth Pleads Guilty to Save Life

Feared Jury Would Ignore Evidence If He Stood Trial

ROXBORO, N.C. — Cy Winstead, 20, whose claim of innocence to a charge of attempted rape was supported by a number of reputable witnesses, brought his trial to a dramatic close here last week by entering a plea of guilty.

This change of plea, made on advice of defense counsel, was based on fear that the jury, despite the evidence, would return a guilty verdict, which makes mandatory a sentence of life imprisonment or death by gas.

Sentence imposed on the plea of guilty was imprisonment for two and a half to five years.

Lynching Averted

Winstead was the victim of a near lynching last summer following his arrest on a charge filed by Pauline Dunn, young white girl with whom a number of colored and white youths were said to have been familiar. He was among a group eating watermelon at her home when arrested.

Witnesses heard before the plea was changed included two white doctors who said they found no scars, scratches, bruises or other evidences of a struggle when they examined the girl after the alleged attack.

At least eight prominent white farmers of the community took the stand to attest to Winstead's good character. A young white man gave testimony concerning the girl's alleged intimacies with him and a number of other youths.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

N.C. High Court Says Suspect Must Die in Spite of Federal Alibi

Social Security Records, Five Witnesses Place Doomed Man 400 Miles from Attack Scene

RALEIGH, N.C. — An alibi supported by U.S. Government records was insufficient to convince the North Carolina Supreme Court last week that William M. Wellmon had been unjustly sentenced to death on a criminal attack charge.

Wellmon, convicted in August by the Iredell County Superior court, contended that he was working on a construction job at Fort Belvoir, Va., on February 11, 1941, the day Mrs. Cora Sowers, aged white woman, said he assaulted her at her home near Statesville, N.C., some 400 miles away.

Alibi Delayed Extradition

Wellmon's alibi was supported by U.S. Social Security records, as well as by testimony of the foreman and assistant auditor of the construction company for which he worked, both white.

Two co-workers with whom he went to work that day and his Washington landlady who saw him at breakfast that morning and accepted his rent that evening also supported it.

This testimony was so conclusive that Wellmon's extradition from Washington, D.C., where he was arrested, was delayed from April 11, 1941, until August of this year, during which time several hearings were held.

No Error Found

The State Supreme Court recognized the "direct conflict" in testimony as to Wellmon's whereabouts on the day of the alleged crime, but ruled that:

"The jury heard the witnesses, observed their demeanor . . . and returned a verdict of guilty. Since the exceptive assignments of error . . . cannot be sustained, and since we find no error on the face of the record, we must, notwithstanding the gravity of our action, affirm the judgment of death pronounced by the Superior Court."

Identification Questionable

The State's case was built largely on a questionable identification by Mrs. Sowers, made only after Wellmon was dressed in clothes similar to those she said her attacker wore.

Wellmon failed to fit her original description in several major details, including the absence of front gold teeth, of which she said her attacker had three.

Wellmon is married and the father of four children.

Dr. Leon A. Ransom, and James Washington, attorneys for the Washington NAACP, who assisted Edward Berger, white, in the Washington extradition hearings in 1941, did not take over in the appeal.

Dr. Ransom said that he, Prof. Robert Ming, also of the Howard University Law School and Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the NACP, offered their services to the Raleigh branch NAACP in conducting the appeal.

Offer Declined

This offer was declined and Mr. Berger of Washington was retained on the grounds that it was felt that a white lawyer would have a better chance in court.

The national NAACP office, advised of this condition, suggested that the local branch employ Prentiss Todd, white Raleigh attorney, and said that in such an event, they would be glad to work with him on the case.

When this arrangement was termed not acceptable by the local NAACP Messrs. Ransom, and Washington withdrew from the case.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

PARDON ASKED IN RAPE CASE

Claim Man Was 4000 Miles Away

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—Declaring the case of William Wellman, Negro sentenced to die for an alleged attack upon a 67-year old white woman, one o fthe grossest miscarriages of justice in recent years, organizations headed by the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties are asking Gov. J. M. Broughton to pardon the convicted man.

Well, according to several witnesses, was 400 miles from the scene of the alleged crime when it was supposed to have occurred. Official WPA records show that Wellman was employed on a project here in Washington during the entire month of February. When extradition was sought, the time keepers' records were introduced and two subsequent checks during the day and at quitting time. The man with whom he rode to work also testified to his presence in Washington.

Identification was made by two women, the alleged victim and a Negro woman, but they were not positive until a detective is said to have asked a leading question.

Paul Green, noted playwright from Chapel Hill, Unievrsity of North Carolina, has interested himself in the case as have several other prominent whites.

Condemned Worker Reprieved ---Protest Scores in 'Rape Case'

C.D. Daily, N.Y. DEC 26 1942

RALEIGH, NC (FP)—Responding to hundreds of telegrams from unions and others, Gov. J. M. Broughton of North Carolina Dec. 16 granted a 60-day reprieve to William Wellman, Negro worker who was to have died Dec. 18 for a crime he could not have committed.

Pointing to the overwhelming evidence of Wellman's innocence, the governor said: "If at the end of 60 days, my present view is still unchanged, it will be my duty to release the prisoner."

Legal defense of Wellman is being carried on by Atty. A. J. Isserman of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties and Atty. Charles H. Houston of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People. The two organizations also cooperated in rallying a nationwide protest campaign.

DEC 26 1942

PROVES ALIBI

Most important evidence of Wellman's innocence was testimony of his fellow workers and time records at Fort Belvoir, Va., which prove he was working there the day he was alleged to have raped a white woman in Statesville, NC, almost 400 miles away.

DEC 26 1942

"It is the opinion," Broughton said, "of the parole official and the handwriting expert and my own opinion, that the signatures of William Wellman on the payroll receipts are genuine. It is obvious that the prisoner couldn't have been working in Fort Belvoir and have committed the crime in Iredell county on the same day.

DEC 26 194

"The only witness against Wellman is a Negro woman who is employed by the son of the victim."

Wellman was identified as the alleged attacker by means of photographs shown to this witness and the victim. He was arrested later in Fort Belvoir and extradited to NC. It was not until the NAACP and NFCL entered the case that the evidence of his innocence was dug up.

37h-1942
Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

TEXAS

6908

OCT 31 1942

Rapist Convicted 2d Time; Again Sentenced to Death

Dallas, Tex., Oct. 30 (AP).—Henry Allen Hill, a Negro charged with raping a white woman, was convicted a second time today and again sentenced to death. A former conviction was reversed in September by the United States Supreme court because no Negro was on the grand jury that indicted Hill. A Negro farmer was on the grand jury that recently returned the second indictment.

37h-1942

VIRGINIA

6909

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Berryville Negro Sentenced to Chair In Criminal Attack

FEB 13 1942

Leesburg, Va., Feb. 12 (AP). — Charged with raping a married woman of Leesburg in her home here last October, Samuel Legions, 22, Negro, of Berryville, was convicted last night by a Loudoun County jury which decided that he should die in the electric chair.

The jury, which heard 24 witnesses throughout yesterday, returned its verdict after 3 hours of deliberation in the evening. Legions' counsel, headed by Charles Houston, of Washington, thereupon moved to set aside the verdict and Judge J. R. H. Alexander set hearing of the motion for February 23.

FEB 13 1942

Prosecution testimony was that Legions entered the home here and threatened the woman, her husband and month-old child with death if they made any outcry before attacking the wife in the kitchen of the house.

6910

37h-1942

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Va. Attack Suspect Waives Extradition

JAN 23 1942

Baltimore, Jan. 22 (AP).—Dock Pittrell, Negro, accused of unlawful flight to avoid prosecution on a charge of attempted rape of a white woman patient in a Danville, Va., hospital, waived removal to Virginia today.

37h

United States Commissioner James K. Cullen, before whom Pittrell was arraigned, said he was going back to Virginia of his own volition. Bail was set at $2500. Pittrell's arrest was announced last night by E. A. Soucy, Federal Bureau of Investigation agent.

6911

Washington Post
Washington, D; C.

Death Sentence Of Va. Boy, 16, Is Commuted

JAN 7 - 1942

By the Associated Press

Richmond, Va., Jan. 6.—Gov. Price announced today that he was commuting the death sentence of Joseph R. Mickens, 16-year-old Negro convicted of raping a young Waynesboro white woman, to life imprisonment.

37h

His action, the Governor said, was based on the single ground of Mickens' youth. The young Negro would have died Friday had the Governor not intervened.

"There is no question of guilt," the Governor said, "and it was a very brutal crime but I am unwilling to see a boy who was 15 years old at the time of the crime electrocuted."

JAN 7 - 1942

The Governor expressed the opinion that Mickens' debt to society would be paid by prolonged confinement and said he felt sure that no future Governor would free the Negro.

JAN 7 - 1942

The Mickens case went before both the State and United States Supreme Courts before the final decision came back to the Governor. The youth was indicted by a special Augusta County grand jury December 2, 1940, and was tried and convicted before Judge Floridus Crosby, December 20, 1940.

There are two other Negroes in the State penitentiary who are scheduled to be executed before the close of Governor Price's term. They are Charles T. Johnson, jr., 19, and William Henry Diggs, 24, who were convicted of murdering Gladys Mae Tyree, 18-year-old Appomattox High School senior, in Nelson County last fall.

371-1942

Lynching

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

8 Antilynch Bills Died in House in 1941

FEB 7 - 1942

WASHINGTON

The lynching in Sikeston, Mo., Sunday brought to light the fact that eight antilynching bills were introduced in the House of Representatives on January 3, 1941 all of which were allowed to lapse into oblivion.

The only variation was that of Congressman Louis Ludlow (Dem., Ind.) which authorized investigation of lynchings by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), H.R. 1032.

Others were introduced by Congressmen Joseph A. Gavagan (Dem., N.Y.), H.R. 971; Arthur W. Mitchell (Dem., Ill.), H.R. 111; D. S. Cuyer (Rep., Kans.), H.R. 975; Charles R. Clason (Rep., Mass.), H.R. 1766; L. S. Geyer (Rep., Calif.), deceased, and Bardel J. Jonkman (Rep., Mich.), H.R. 1027.

FEB 7 - 1942

Congress Shows Its Colors

These bills were presented to the House Judiciary Committee of which Congressman Hatton W. Summers (Dem., Tex.) is chairman a year ago. Now the first session of the Seventy-seventy Congress has ended and none of the bills are scheduled for action by the second session.

No speeches have been made on the floor of Congress in either the House or Senate with respect to the lynching in Missouri, Sunday. Neither Senator Harry S. Truman nor Senator Bennett Champ Clark of that State have uttered a word, nor has there been any word from the President.

The following Missouri Congressmen have also found in convenient to keep mum on the first lynching to blot the escutcheon of 1942:

FEB 7 - 1942

Democrats — Congressmen Milton A. Romjue, L. Nelson, Richard M. Duncan, C. Jasper Bell, Joseph B. Shannon, Clyde Williams, Clarence Cannon, Orville Zimmerman, John B. Sullivan, John J. Cochran; Republicans Philip A. Bennett, Dewey Short and Walter C. Plosser.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

FEDERAL ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

FEB 14 1942

THE FAVORITE ARGUMENT of the South against a federal anti-lynching bill is that the handling of crime and punishment of criminals is the job of the several states and not the federal government, except in such cases where there is a violation of federal statutes. These states contend they can handle the crime of lynching and point to the gradual decrease in the list of such victims as proof that they have the situation well under control.

FEB 14 1942

They do not seem to realize that so long as there remains even one lynching a year, the good name of the people of the entire United States is besmirched, and our talk of democracy and fair play to the other nations of the world becomes tinkling symbals and sounding brass.

The real reason why the South cannot wipe out lynchings unaided by the federal government is that many officials of that section are sympathetic to the mob and make no effort to punish those guilty of this crime, as witness the recent lynching in Sikeston, Mo., where an investigation by the N. A. A. C. P., shows that State Highway Patrolman Melvin Dace drove a patrol car before the mob and warned Negro residents of the town that a mob was coming and ordered them to get off the streets. The Prosecuting Attorney, David Blanton, was present while the mob was being formed and made no effort to have any of them arrested. It is also charged that the murder took place in full sight of the sheriff of the county, his deputies and the chief of police of Sikeston. The participants of the lynching mob were unmasked, yet all these officials swore they could not identify any of the participants and made no record of the license number of the automobile which dragged the wounded body through the streets.

FEB 14 1942

Here is a clear case of neglect of duty by those sworn to uphold the law, all because they felt, like the mob, that the victim "had it coming to him." So long as this attitude prevails in the South, lynchers will go unpunished and until such mobs are made to realize that swift and sure punishment awaits them, they will continue to lynch defenseless Negroes.

FEB 14 1942

The federal constitution, which guarantees to every citizen a fair trial by a jury of his peers when accused of a crime, is clearly violated when a lynching mob takes the law into its own hands. The Sikeston, Mo., lynching is further evidence that the South is unwilling and unable to control these lawless outbursts and for that reason the power should be taken from them and placed in the hands of the federal government.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

NAACP INTERVIEWS MISSOURI GOV. ON SIKESTON LYNCHING

FEB 14 1942 FEB 14 1942

Asks Immediate Passage of Anti-Lynching Law

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—To support its plan for action in the Sikeston, Missouri, lynching, the local branch of the N. A. A. C. P. will hold a state-wide mass meeting of all Missouri branches here Sunday, February 8. Governor Forrest C. Donnell of Missouri has ordered an immediate investigation. A delegation from the St. Louis NAACP was scheduled to have a conference with him on Thursday, January 29.

Ask Anti-Lynching Law

Asking for immediate legislation giving authority to the federal government to proceed against lynchers and lynching, the NAACP wired President Roosevelt, Monday, January 26. The NAACP said that the lynching of Cleo Wright during the church hour Sunday "is the most crushing blow to Negroes which could top repeated rebuffs, segregation and discrimination suffered by Negroes in the war efforts. We are certain that Japanese propagandists are already citing this lynching as evidence of what colored races of the Far East would suffer if the democracies win, precisely as they have used the brutal attack on Negro soldiers at Alexandria, La., to the same purpose.

FEB 14 1942

The wire to the President said that positive affirmative action is imperative, and requested the enactment of anti-lynching legislation. "Decisive action by you and the Congress will hearten Americans of all races through assurance to them that the democracy we are asked to preserve applies within as well as outside the United States."

Comfort to Nazis, Says Papers

Among the newspaper editorials reflecting the public's indignation over the burning of 30-year-old Cleo Wright by a mob of 300 people, were those in the New York Times and the Syracuse, N. Y., Post Standard. The Times editorial stated that the community of Sikeston had earned "an unholy notoriety" and had "disgraced itself and the old hideous crime of mob murder had another advertisement . . . There are few happenings in the United States that afford more comfort to the Nazis than evidences of lawlessness. Lynchings are their prize exhibit in proof of the alleged hypocrisy of the free societies."

FEB 14 1942

The Post Standard: "The press of Germany and Japan received a story from the United States yesterday which probably was given great prominence in every anti-American newspaper around the globe. We refer to the account of the revolting lynching of a Negro in Sikeston, Missouri. Not only is the event a disgraceful blot on the history of Missouri, but it also furnishes propaganda agencies of enemy countries with exactly the kind of news they are seeking to blacken the reputation of the United States as a nation of freedom and equality."

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

EDITORIAL IN CAMPUS PAPER STARTS ACTION

FEB 28 1942

Sign Petition To Congress Asking Support Of Own State Legislators

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—Echoes of the lynching of Cleo Wright at Sikeston, Mo., were heard on the historic campus of Harvard university when students, representing many races, gathered in Lowell Junior Common room and signed their names to a petition calling upon Congress to pass an anti-lynching bill.

FEB 28 1942

Action for the petition was spurred by an editorial that appeared in a recent edition of the "Harvard Crimson," official campus publication, which cited the use Japanese were making of the Sikeston affair to rally the darker races throughout the world to its cause.

The editorial, captioned "The Disease Within," reads as follows:

"THE DISEASE WITHIN"

"On last January at Sikeston, Mo., Cleo Wright was shot, dragged behind an automobile, and burned in gasoline. That was at 2:30 p.m. At 3:30 the bloody details were known throughout the South, as well as in Malaya, the Philippines, the Dutch East Indies, and the islands of the Pacific. With a Japanese broadcast to the colored peoples of the world, the American institution of "lynch law" had become a deadly enemy of democracy in a very real as well as in a theoretical sense.

"The Japanese know that within three weeks of the declaration of war American lynchings more than doubled, and they realize the power of such propaganda among the brown people of the Dutch and British colonies. It is unbeatable propaganda because it is true, as true as the stories of Fascist barbarism that keeps a conquered Europe friendly to Germany's enemies. Our blindness, smugness, and self-righteousness are not a state of mind

...hich can appropriately be the "little brown brother" on the other side of the globe. We can talk to ourselves and to the British about racial equality, human suffrage, and the right of trial by jury, but Japan is quoting facts and figures to prove that we are guilty of crimes as foul as those we attribute to Hitler's henchmen. FEB 28 1942

"What answer is there to the radio which cautions the world against the democracy which is coming to Asia to hang men without trial or burn them alive? Shall we merely counter with Nazi horror tales, or deny that colored draftees were fired on in North Carolina? Or would it be better to reassure the Allies' colonials that we reserve such treatment solely for our domestic Negroes?

"An educational conversion of the South would take much longer than the available time, which is nil. But some temporary relief may arise from anti-lynch petitions, like that which the Harvard Inter-Race Council will circulate tonight in an open meeting in the Lowell Junior Common room. We cannot afford to let the lobbies, campaigns, and popular waves of indignation continue their peacetime feebleness into the war."

United States Attorney General Biddle has ordered a federal investigation into the Sikeston lynching for the reason that Germany is said to have flooded Latin American countries with details of the atrocity, showing how contemptible America holds people of dark complexion. Pamphlets have been circulated in Central America by Nazi agents citing the attitude of America on the race issue, and asking the question: "Is This the Kind of Democracy America is Asking You to Fight For?" FEB 28 1942

The Harvard students maintain that this sort of world advertisement of America's conduct does our preachment of democracy untold harm and is a ruination to national unity. They will urge Massachusetts senators and congressmen to ...e full support to the bill.

St. Augustine, Fla. Record
November 11, 1942

ANTI-LYNCHING

WASHINGTON, Nov. 11 (AP) — A new drive for anti-lynching legislation got under way on Capitol Hill today, but its chief backer expressed doubt it would be successful this year.

Representative Guyer (R.-Kas.), who has periodically offered legislation to punish communities in which lynchings occur, filed with the House clerk a petition seeking to call the proposal from the judiciary committee.

ANTI LYNCHING BILL THAT CAULFIELD WOULDN'T SIGN

St. Louis, Mo.

(Editor's note) The following is a copy of the Anti-Lynching bill that the then Governor Henry S. Caulfield, now a high city official refused to sign in 1931.

SENATE BILL No. 259
56th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
INTRODUCED BY
SENATOR KINNEY

Read first time February 16, 1931 and 500 copies ordered printed.

R. E.E L. Mars, Secretary

AN ACT

TO ASSURE TO PERSONS THE EQUAL PROTECTION OF THE LAWS, AND TO PUNISH THE CRIME OF LYNCHING

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows: FEB 27 1942

Section 1. That the phrase "mob or riotous assemblage" when used in this Act shall mean an assemblage composed of three or more persons acting concert. Without authority of law, for the purpose of depriving any person of his life, or doing him physical injury.

Section 2. If any country or governmental subdivisions thereof fails, neglects, or refuses to provide and maintain protection to the life or person of any individual within its jurisdiction against a mob or riotous assemblage, whether by way of preventing or punishing the acts thereof, such county shall be reason of such failure, neglect, or refusal be deemed to have denied to such person the equal protection of the laws of the States, and to the end that the protection guaranteed to persons within the jurisidiction of the several States, or to citizens of the United States, by the Constitution of the United States, may be secured, it is provided:

pal officer charged with the duty or who possesses the power or authority as such officer to protect the life or person of any individual that may be injured or put to death by any mob or riotous assemblage, such officer shall be deemed guilty of a felony, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding five years or by a fine of not exceeding $5,000, or by both such fine imprisonment. Any State or municipal officer, acting as such officer under authority of State Law, having in its custody or control a prisoner, who shall conspire, combine, confederate with any person to injure or put such prisoner to death without authority of law, or who shall conspire combine, or confederate with any person to suffer such prisoner to be taken or obtained from his custody or control for the purpose of being injured or put to death without authority of law shall be guilty of a felony, and those who so conspire, combine, or confederate with such officer shall likewise be guilty of a felony. On conviction the parties participating therein shall be punished by imprisonment for life or not less than five years. FEB 27 1942

Section 3. Any State or municipal officer charged with the duty or apprehending, keeping in custody or prosecuting any person participating in such mob or riotous assemblage who falls, neglects or refuses to make all appropriate efforts to perform his duty in apprehending, keeping in custody, or prosecuting to final judgment under the laws of this State all persons so participating shall be guilty of a felony, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding five years or by a fine of not exceeding $5,000, or by both such fine imprisonment. Any State or municipal officer, acting as such officer under authority of State Law, having in its custody or control a prisoner, who shall conspire, combine, confederate with any person to injure or put such prisoner to death without authority of law, or who shall conspire combine, or confederate with any person to suffer such prisoner to be taken or obtained from his custody or control for the purpose of being injured or put to death without authority of law shall be guilty of a felony, and those who so conspire, combine, or confederate with such officer shall likewise be guilty of a felony. On conviction the parties participating therein shall be punished by imprisonment for life or not less than five years. FEB 27 1942

New Masses
New York, N. Y.

Anti-lynch Bill Sabotage

APR 30 1940

WHAT has happened to the anti-lynching bill? Has it gone the way of the rest of the New Deal program? In 1938 the Roosevelt administration was actively behind the bill. But after passing the House, it was filibustered to death by a small clique of anti-New Deal senators. On January 7 of this year the anti-lynching bill was again passed by the House. But today the administration is no longer backing it. It is quietly doing with the anti-lynching bill what it has done with the whole program of social advance which it once sponsored. In March, after hearings by a subcommittee at which representatives of the Communist Party challenged the conspiracy against the bill, the Senate Judiciary Committee reported the measure out. Since then it has been put on ice. Asked when the anti-lynching bill would be taken up, Senator Barkley, chief administration leader, "avoided the question with a laughing counter-question," the New York *Herald Tribune* reported recently. APR 30 1940

It's wonderful to have a sense of humor. Fifteen million black Americans, who suffer lynching, Jim Crowism, denial of the right to vote, the poverty that comes from economic discrimination are unable to see the joke. In growing numbers they are determined to overthrow these evils. The fourth conference of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, held last weekend, and the Third National Negro Congress, which meets in Washington this weekend, accent this determination. Millions of white people stand with them in this fight for elementary civil rights. As Dr. Alain Locke, professor of philosophy at Howard University, told the Negro Youth Congress: "The front line trenches in the war for democracy are in the South." For Negroes as for whites, a third party—not a third term—points the way to winning this war.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
September 4, 1942

For States to Punish

Slight and not unnatural error has crept into The Calhoun (St. Matthews) Times when it says that The News and Courier opposes the penalizing of a county in which a lynching occurs. The constitution of South Carolina provides for collection of monetary damages by the family of a victim of lynchers, and The News and Courier does not object to it. The News and Courier has protested and now protests against the federal anti-lynching, or anti-Southern, bill, supported by Walter White, the colored man, and other colored men of the North, by nearly all the Northern "Democrats" and by the wife of your president who has button-holed congressmen to vote for it. The News and Courier opposes interference with the making and enforcement of laws to punish murderous gangs by the states.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

UNION FRAMES RESOLUTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

OCT 10 1942 OCT 10 1942

PEORIA, Ill., Oct. 8—The first convention of the United Farm Equipment and Metal Workers of America, passed this week a strongly worded resolution against discrimination. Taking its stand with such progressive unions as the ILGWU, AFL in the conviction that democracy for the world cannot be won until democracy is achieved at home, the new CIO union assailed the Ku Klux Klan and other "white supremacy" gangs as chief agents for domestic fascism.

37i- 1942
Chicago Bee.
Chicago, Illinois

Pass A Lynch Bill Now!

NOV 1 - 1942

ACTION should be taken by the Congress to enact a Federal law against lynching immediately. The rising tide of lynchings in the South, coupled with increased racial tension is occasion for some concern by the nation that it is time for immediate forthright action to be taken.

Some may question the wisdom of pressing for an anti-lynch bill now in view of the fact that the present Congress will terminate in December and all unpassed or unsigned bills will die with that session of the Congress. The fact of the matter is a bill can be passed before the Congress adjourns. In the event that it does not pass the effect of the motion to enact the law will have a commendable effect upon the attitude of southerners who may be prospective members of lynch mobs. Many Negro men may be saved from the bloodthirsty mobs by simply pressing now for a federal law.

NOV 1 - 1942

We view with alarm the lynchings that have occured in Mississippi and feel that our national government should speak up against it through the President of the United States. We feel that silence on the part of the government gives aid and comfort to the lynchers and encourages them and other southerners tao continue their wrath against the Negroes in the South. This the nation cannot conveniently tolerate.

NOV 1 - 1942

Now is the time to press for the anti-lynching bill that the southerners may know that the rights of Negroes must be protected from the inhuman cruelty that has so often been their fate.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

SIGN LYNCHING BILL PLEA

NOV 11 1942

30 Representatives Want Measure Brought Out of Committee

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10—A petition by Representative Guyer of Kansas to discharge the House Rules Committee from further jurisdiction over a rule to bring up his anti-lynching bill was placed on the Speaker's desk today and was reported to have gained more than thirty signatures before the House adjourned at 1 P. M.

If the petition is signed by 218 members, a majority of the House, the bill, which has been before various session of Congress for more than twenty years, would be brought up the next day for four hours of debate and final House action.

Although names of signers of the petition were not made public, House members told reporters that among the first thirty were three Southern Republicans—Representatives Reece and Jennings of Tennessee and Robsion of Kentucky.

Sheffield, Ala., Tri-Cities Daily
November 11, 1942

DRIVE FOR ANTI-LYNCHING LEGISLATION IS RENEWED

WASHINGTON, (AP)—A new drive for anti-lynching legislation got under way on Capitol Hill today, but its chief backer expressed doubt it would be successful this year.

Representative Guyer (R-Kas.), who has periodically offered legislation to punish communities in which lynchings occur, filed with the House clerk a petition seeking to call the proposal from the judiciary committee.

To be effective, the petition must carry the signatures of 218 House members, and even Guyer conceded that was unlikely at this session.

However, he added, he will renew the drive next January.

Guyer said his attempt to force action was prompted by a recent series of lynchings in Mississippi. Under his proposal, the survivors of any person killed or injured by mob action could seek damages from the county in which the action occurred.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
November 11, 1942

Anti-Lynching Bill Petition Circulated

WASHINGTON, Nov. 11.—(AP) Representative Guyer (R-Kas) today was circulating a petition to bring the anti-lynching bill before the House for action.

The measure, which has been dormant in the House Judiciary Committee since the beginning of the session, can only be brought out by 218 signatures. It has been bitterly opposed in the past by Southern congressmen.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

6912

Geyer Moves To Get Vote On Anti-Lynching Measure

3 7c Nov. 21, 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 19—A new drive to bring the anti-lynching bill which has been buried in a House Judiciary committee pigeon hole since the beginning of this session of Congress, was begun by Representative U. S. Geyer, Republican of Kansas, last week when he circulated a petition to bring the measure before the House for action. Thirty signatures were attached in 30 minutes.

The measure can only be brought forth by 218 signatures, which is believed unlikely at this session. However, the Kansan has asserted he would begin the campaign anew next January at the new Congress. The measure is vigorously opposed by Southern Congressmen.

WHITE SOUTH "HARASSED"

As usual, rabid Representative Rankin, Mississippi Democrat, took the floor to protect "white supremacy," asking for an armistice on "harassment in the United States."

"Let's stop harassing each other," he pleaded: "There is a resolution being circulated to harass the white people of the Southern States Let's have an armistice to stop that, to stop the labor racketeering, to stop harassing the farmers, the independent businessmen and, as much as I admire Assistant Attorney Thurman Arnold, let's have a stop to their persecution of the independent press.

"Let's put a stop to this harassing of the American people at home."

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Anti-Mob Bill Petition Back in the House

NOV 14 1942

55 Congressmen Quickly Pledged to Bring It to a Vote

WASHINGTON

The first repercussions of last week's sweeping Republican victroy at the polls were felt in the House on Tuesday with the introduction of a discharge petition for Federal anti-lynching legislation by Congressman U. S. Geyer of Kansas.

The petition for which 55 signatures have already been pledged needs 163 more signers for a 218 total to bring about a discharge of the house committee which has been considering the Guyer Anti-Lynching Bill designated H-974 on the house calendar.

NOV 14 1942

The bill introduced and sponsored by Congressman Guyer would make possible Federal search for, prosecution and punishment of lynch mob members.

It would also make possible Federal trial and punishment of State and county officials found guilty of dereliction of duty in providing protection for prisoners in their custody.

GOP Will Help

Supporters of the measure including a number of Republican leaders expressed confidence that the needed signatures would soon be obtained.

The petition which was placed on the speaker's desk at 12:30 received seven signatures before the house recessed at 1:10.

Seven Sign

The first signers were: Representatives U. S. Guyer (R. Kan.), Even Howell (R. Ill.), Noah M. Mason (R. Ill.), Steven Day (R. Ill.), Bertrand W. Gearhart (R. Cal.), and Frances Bolton (R. Ohio).

NOV 14 1942

Under provisions of the bill, State and local officers found guilty of dereliction of duty would be subject to prison sentences of 1 to 5 years. Fines up to $200 to $2,500 or both.

US Urged to Stop Lynching, Vote Bar

P. M. Daily, N.Y.

WASHINGTON — Atty. Gen. Francis Biddle met this week with a committee of the National Lawyers' Guild, who demanded a more vigorous prosecution by the Department of Justice against persons and state ofifcers responsible for lynching and the denial of the franchise to Negroes in Texas, SCarolina, Arkansas, Alabama and Mississippi.

DEC 26 1942

Present at the conference were Eugene Compton, Martin Popper, Wendell Byrd, Victor Rotnem, chief of Civil Liberties Section, Department of Justice, and William H. Hastie, civilian aide to the Secretary of War, and Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Robert Kenny, president of the National Lawyers' Guild, is the recently elected attorney general of California.

DEC 26 1942

The committee sought the filing of a brief amicus specifically in the Texas primary case and criminal prosecution of all recent lynchings. The attorney general assured the committee that "careful consideration" would be given all cases mentioned.

Thurgood Marshall And William Hastie Cite Poor Record

"Nashville Globe," Nashville, Tenn.

Say Aides of Attorney General Biddle Not Vigorous In Prosecuting Lynchers Nor In Protecting Colored Soldiers From Violence

NEW YORK, N. Y.—At a meeting this week of the Executive Board of the National Lawyers Guild of which Robert Walker Kenny of California is president, the filing of a brief as friend of the court was authorized in the government's suit against the Associated Press.

In a resolution adopted by the board the Guild declared that "The contention of the Associated Press that the Government anti-trust suit against the press is a violation of freedom of the press is without foundation."

Dec. 6, 1942

The Executive Board will appoint a special committee to study and report on the general question of freedom of the press and the dissemination of news in war time.

Condemnation of the Department of Justice was formulated in a report to the board by William Hastie, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War and Thurgood Marshall, Special Counsel of the N. A. A. C. P.

Sharply criticizing the manner in which Special U. S. Attorneys appointed by the Department of Justice have presented evidence in lynching cases the report said:

"During the past year the U. S. Department of Justice for the first time has been investigating several of the lynchings. The lynching at Sikeston, Missouri, January 25, 1942, was investigated by the United States Department of Justice and presented to the U. S. Grand Jury, which refused to indict either the members of the mob or the state officials involved. Due credit should be given to the present United States Department of Justice for this much. It is quite evident that more vigorous action must be taken by the members of the Department of Justice presenting these cases to the Grand Jury. The report of the Grand Jury on the Sikeston lynching includes a statement that begins with a rehearsal of evidence presented to it of the crime alleged to have been committed by the victim of the mob and then proceeds to find the victim guilty of the crime for which he was charged by stating that 'in this instance a brutal criminal was denied due process.' This was of course beyond the scope of the Grand Jury investigating and was unnecessary, uncalled for and indeed is contrary to the facts revealed by other investigations."

The report further cited instances of violence against Negroes in uniform by civilian and state officials.

"An attack on a Negro soldier or sailor in uniform is a direct attack on our government. Unless the federal government is willing to protect its soldiers and sailors on leave as well as while on duty, it is impossible to maintain the proper morale among Negro soldiers and sailors and their families, and the authority of government itself is seriously undermined. It is impossible to develop combat efficiency in Negro soldiers and sailors while denying them basic civil rights during the period of their training.

"One of the most serious consequences of congestion on segregated public carriers is the almost daily conflict between colored soldiers and white fellow passengers, whether traveling on duty or on furlough the colored soldier experiences the indignity of segregation. Moreover, he is often ordered to move from seats customarily set aside for Negro passengers so that white persons may be seated. With increasing frequency he is denied accommodations altogether when there are sufficient white persons waiting to fill the entire vehicle.

"In October, in Montgomery, Ala., a Negro Army nurse was beaten and her nose broken by city policemen because she refused to vacate the rear seat of a bus so that white passengers might be seated. At about the same time in Norfolk, Va., two Negro sergeants were beaten and jailed for a similar offense. In some large camps a short furlough may be worthless to the Negro soldier because local transportation officials will prevent him from boarding trains or bus so that space may be available for white passengers."

Concerning violence against defense workers, the report stated:

"It is certainly agreed that American citizens have a right to go about their work without molestation by either civilians or state authorities. There are several instances where white workers incited by bigots have refused to work with Negro workers and in some cases have even committed assaults upon Negro workers. In some plants in the state of Alamaba, white and colored workers are going to work armed in anticipation of racial outbreaks.

"Now that the Ku Klux Klan is under indictment by the federal government, smaller organizations, such as Vigilantes, Inc., being sponsored by the Talmadges of Georgia have come into existence. It is the duty of the federal government to ferret out the leaders of these subversive elements aimed to prevent Negroes from working in defense plants."

Chicago Bee.
Chicago, Illinois

NATIONAL LAWYERS' GUILD URGES ANTI-LYNCH ACTION

NEW YORK, N. Y., Dec. 10—At a meeting this week of the executive board of the National Lawyers Guild of which Robert Walker Kenny of California is president, the filing of a brief as friend of the court was authorized in the government's suit against the Associated Press.

In a resolution adopted by the board the Guild declared that "The contention of the Associated Press that the Government anti-trust suit against the press is a violation of freedom of the press is without foundation."

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Sharply criticizing the manner in which Special U. S. Attorneys appointed by the Department of Justice have presented evidence in lynching cases the report said:

"In the states with the worst lynching records, criminal prosecutions of the members of the mob never go further than a perfunctory investigation by either a coroner's jury or by a grand jury, ending with the decision that a person lynched 'came to his death at the hands of parties unknown.'

Dec. 13, 1942

"During the past year the U. S. Department of Justice for the first time has been investigating several of the lynchings. The lynching at Sikeston, Missouri, January 25, 1942, was investigated by the United States Department of Justice and presented to the U .S. grand jury, which refused to indict either the members of the mob or the state officials involved. Due credit should be given to the present United States Department of Justice for this much.

'It is quite evident that more vigorous action must be taken by the members of the Department of Justice presenting these cases to the grand jury. The report of the grand jury on the Sikeston lynching includes a statement that begins with a rehearsal of evidence presented to it of the crime alleged to have been committed by the victim of the mob and then proceeds to find the victim guilty of the crime for which he was charged by stating that "in this instance a brutal criminal was denied due process.' 12/13/42

"This was, of course, beyond the scope of the grand jury investigation and was unnecessary, uncalled for and indeed is contrary to the facts revealed by other investigations."

The report further cited instances of violence against Negroes in uniform by civilian and state officials and violence against defense workers.

371-1942

6913

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

How About The Anti-Lynch Bill?

WHAT is happening to the bill to outlaw lynching that is now pending in Congress? Have not the lynchings this year shown the necessity for such a law? Does not the failure of the states where the crimes occurred to prosecute indicate that local enforcement agencies are either too weak or disinterested to institute action or that they play a part in the commission of the crimes?

Do our lawmakers know that lynchings make good propaganda for our enemies and that when one occurs the enemies make immediate use of it by sending it to those of our allies who are members of the darker races?

We believe that now is the time to enact a Federal law to curb lynching. We believe that now is the time to show to the world that American can be fair, and just, and impartial to all of her citizens. We believe that now is the time to demonstrate by deeds that this country has no second or third class citizens.

We submit that one of the many forward steps that can be taken at this time is the immediate enactment of the measure to make lynching a Federal offense with sufficient punishment to make it effective.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Editors Call for Lynch Law

St. Louis Papers Want Federal Law Established

ST. LOUIS. — Two of the largest local dailies here called for the passage of a federal anti-lynching law after the federal grand jury investigating the lynching of Cleo Wright in Sikeston last January returned a 'white wash' statement, July 31, finding that no federal statute had been violated. No indictments were returned.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch in an editorial headed "Not A Closed Case" said: "They (the grand jury) might well have called upon Congress to make lynching a federal offense for, through the crime, the reputation of the nation as well as that of Missouri has suffered. It is lynch law for which the Nazis most frequently upbraid us, and it is lynch law which they exploit in their propaganda to the colored races of the world."

"There was some hope that at least one mob would be brought to justice when a federal grand jury undertook an investigation of the lynching of Cleo Wright in Sikeston last January," stated the St. Louis Star-Times, in its editorial headed "Another Mob Escapes". "That hope is now gone," it continued.

The Star-Times points out that the obvious and only answer is the enactment of a federal law on lynching, and emphasizes that no state where lynching has occurred has machinery which has been found adequate to deal with this crime. "With the enactment of a national anti-lynching law, federal grand juries would be spared the humiliation of being limited to mere denunciation of murder committed in daylight by a mob whose acquaintances looked on from the sidewalks,' it concluded.

Solon Pledges To Continue Fight For Passage Of Bill

Houston Informer
OCT 3 - 1942

SPRINGFIELD.—(ANP)—On the 80th anniversary Tuesday of President Lincoln's Emancipation proclamation, Congressman Raymond S. McKeough, candidate for U. S. senator, reaffirmed his stand for federal anti-lynching legislation.

Recalling that he had twice participated in successful fights to obtain house roll calls on anti-lynching legislation, Congress McKeough said:

"On this 8th anniversary of the abolition of slavery in the United States, I pledge to the colored people of Illinois my determination to continue the fight for a federal law to outlaw mob rule.

"It is beyond my comprehension how anyone, with an innate love of liberty and justice, can oppose the enactment of such legislation. It is contrary to the spirit of the Declaration of Independence. Yet we find in congress of great repute as statesmen who hold that enactment of this legislation would destroy states' rights, or would violate the constitution.

OCT 3 - 1942

"They continue to cite opinions of the supreme court to sustain this contention, but I should like to remind them that, carved in marble over the entrance to the supreme court, are these words: 'Equal Justice Under the Law.'"

OCT 3 1942

Congressman McKeough was one of the small group of leaders who established a precedent by compelling an unfriendly committee to submit anti-lynching legislation to a vote of the House of Representatives.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Papers Urge Lynch Law

AUG 15 1942

Deplore Exoneration In Cleo Wright Case

AUG 15 1942

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Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

Roosevelt Urged to Smash Conspirators in the South

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—A petition with a thousand signatures of Negro and white Southerners from all walks of life, was forwarded to President Roosevelt this week.

DEC 19 1942

The petition called upon the Commander-in-Chief to take firm measures to smash the mounting revolt of Southern political reaction against the essential win-the-war measures of the administration. The statement charged a noisy band of poll tax demagogues with attempting to incite the white people of the South against Negroes in order to destroy national unity.

The petition accused these men of leading attacks on labor, provoking violence against Negroes, organizing phoney "grass roots" opposition to the rationing and price fixing system—all in a mad effort to discredit the President's leadership.

It pointed out that these selfish men are motivated by a fear of social legislation and political reforms (such as the abolition of the poll tax) which are being born in the course of this People's War and which operate to undermine their reactionary grip on the nation.

DEC 19 1942

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

NEGRO COUNCIL EXPECTS HOUSE LYNCHING ACTION

OCT 26 1942

[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]

Washington, D. C., Oct. 25.—A prediction that sufficient votes will be obtained to pass the Guyer federal anti-lynching bill by the house was made today by Edgar G. Brown, director of the National Negro council.

Brown said that a discharge petition calling for removal of the anti-lynching bill from further consideration by the house judiciary committee, where it has been pigeonholed, will be placed on the speaker's desk tomorrow. He said that the signatures of 126 Republicans to the petition, which requires 218 names to force the measure to the floor for a vote, had been assured.

"We are confident of a sufficient number of Republicans, liberal and progressive northern members of the house to effect the immediate passage of the anti-lynching bill in November," Brown said.

OCT 26 1942

"We are still hopeful," he continued, "that the President will speak out against the orgy of three lynchings in Mississippi last week and order this federal legislation as a vital measure on the 'must' program of the administration. Punishment must be swift and sure for the perpetrators of these crimes by bloodthirsty mobs, who violate every constitutional right of free people in a democracy. Only in this way can America shame the Nazi barbarism."

Daily World.
Atlanta, Ga.

Group Redoubles Efforts Since Miss. Mob Action

OCT 27 1942

Message Sent To White House By Various Branches

NEW YORK, N. Y.—(SNS)—While the nation awaits the action of state authorities to bring to justice the mobs who recently lynched two Mississippi Negro children and one Negro man within the same week, the NAACP has redoubled its efforts to secure passage of the anti-lynching bill introduced by Congressman Joseph A. Gavagan before the present session of Congress closes. NAACP this week telegraphed to the White House the following message:

"Three lynchings within five days in Mississippi are as much sabotage of our nation's war effort as a bomb in an airplane factory or a shipyard. Nothing angers and embitters thirteen million American Negroes like lynchings. Nothing delights the Axis powers more. Nothing damages America so much in her dealings with Brazil, China and India. The Mississippi mobs gave important aid to Tokio in her task of holding the millions of colored peoples in the Far East. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People calls upon our federal government under your leadership to act swiftly against mob violence not only for the protection of elementary rights of Negro citizens but for the safety of the nation itself in this critical hour."

OCT 27 1942

Each of the NAACP's 497 branches throughout the nation has been instructed to have its membership urge by telegram their respective congressmen to immediately affix signatures to the discharge petition on H. R. 971 now lying on the desk of the speaker of the House of Representatives.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Spirited Rally Clamors For US Anti-Lynch Law

OCT 31 1942

Because the present Congress is fast moving toward adjournment, the anti-poll tax bill is about to go to the Senate and the federal anti-lynching law lies sleeping in the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives, hundreds of New Yorkers, Negro and white, turned out in a mass victory rally last Sunday afternoon at Salem Methodist Church, 129 st and seventh ave, in response to a call by the National Negro Congress, the National Emergency Committee to Stop Lynching and the Salem Church Lyceum.

The meeting was called to open a nationwide campaign for obtaining federal prosecution and punishment of the mobbists responsible for lynching two 'teen-age Negro boys and a Negro man in Mississippi recently and to spur immediate action by the Senate on the Geyer-Lepper anti-poll tax bill.

To each of the four candidates for governor of NY were sent telegrams asking each whether he will, upon election, immediately move to convene the Conference of Governors of the United States for action on federal anti-lynching legislation and to publicly declare what he is now doing to help insure passage of the Geyer-Pepper anti-poll tax legislation in the Senate.

Candidates Reply

OCT 31 1942

Israel Amter, Communist candidate, was the first to reply, saying:

"Unreservedly support your committee's efforts against lynching. As state official will do everything within my power for immediate convocation of state governors aimed to end lynching."

From Bennett's secretary came:

"Upon election he will move to do everything within his power to put an end, once and for all, in this nation, to lynching and all other evidences of the destruction of men's constitutional rights."

Next, directly to *PV*, came Dean Alfange's statement (American Labor):

"If elected governor, I should be happy to act to call conference as set forth in your telegram."

Wire to President

OCT 31 1942

To the President went a telegram to the White House and refuse to accept announcements and recommendations in place of direct action by the federal government, because we are at war and we cannot win this war until the American Negro is recognized as the equal of all other Americans.

ADAM C. POWELL, JR.—The abolition of lynching now is a war measure, and necessary to insure a quick and meaningful victory.

MAX YERGAN—These lynchings constitute a continuation of the same evil power of a few men, for whom poll-taxers in Congress are the spokesmen, and the incitement to violence on the part of those in Congress who lost the fight against the Geyer bill in the House.

Other speakers were Joseph A. Gavagan; Benjamin Davis jr, candidate for congressman - at - large; Ferdinand Smith; Rev. C. Y. Trigg, pastor, Salem Church; Charles Collins; Ina Wood, victim in the Oklahoma syndicalism case, and Archbishop E. H. Collins.

From Rep. Joseph Clark Baldwin came a letter to *PV's* managing editor, St. Clair Bourne, which said in part:

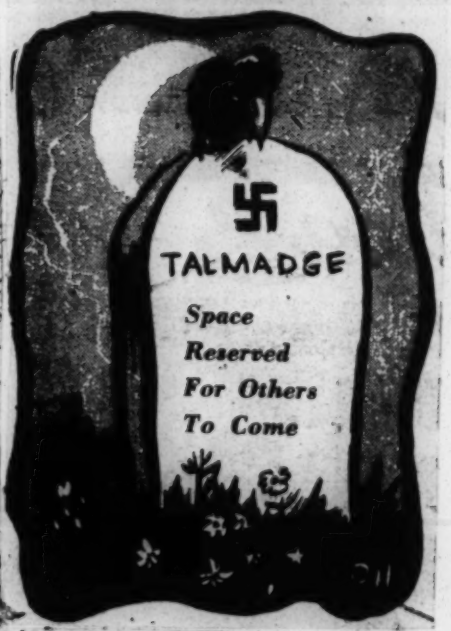
"I am entirely and strongly in favor of the immediate passage of the federal anti-lynching bill, particularly so in the light of the recent regrettable affair in Mississippi. I cannot help but feel that all thinking and intelligent people must be offended and shocked that such discriminatory savagery is extant in a nation which is fighting to defend itself from that very tyranny."

The Brooklyn Victory Council for Equal Opportunity wrote Attorney General Biddle:

"At a time when our President calls for national unity in the face of the grave crisis that confronts us, this unjustifiable and barbaric practice must be stopped. Those elements in our country who are anxious to divide the people and see hitler and his axis partners win this war must be rooted out of our national life."

OCT 31 1942

The New York and the New Jersey Baptist Conference passed a resolution at Mount Zion Baptist Church in Newark calling for immediate passage of the anti-lynch bill.



governor of Mississippi was commended for his promise to bring the lynchers to justice; Frederick Van Nuys of the Senate Judiciary Committee was urged to "take every step to insure a favorable report on the anti-poll tax bill"; another went to Mac Q. Williamson, Oklahoma's State's Attorney, to stop efforts to sustain a conviction of Mrs. Ina Wood and other defendants awaiting a decision of that state's appeal court from a conviction for distributing books advocating equality for Negroes with whites.

OCT 31 1942

Quotes from some of the speeches:
Vito Marcantonio—We shall carry this fight

NEWS CLIPPINGS FILE

How We Can Help Give the Negro a Fair Break

SEP 10 1942

Victor H. Bernstein in his analysis of the race problem in the South, published in PM yesterday, summed up his findings in what he called "A Belligerent Program for Limited Objectives." He described what he thought might be accomplished as extremely modest and a compromise with justice—modest and a compromise because he felt that to ask for more at this time of war crisis might be unwise and dangerous. The three objectives he set were:

Fight anti-Negro job discrimination.

Go all-out for repeal of the poll-tax.

Crush the lynching spirit.

PM today presents a summary of what is being done—or not done—today in accomplishing these goals.

SEP 10 1942

One practical thing becomes immediately clear. The President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices is grossly understaffed. It has a budget request in now for more help. It should get it.

The poll-tax battle can be won. Only 10 signatures are needed to get the Geyer bill out of committee. The New York Representatives who have not signed alone could swing this. Write them and tell them to sign.

The fight against lynching is an eternal one. Some Negro leaders feel that the menace is not as acute as it has been in the past and that the big fight is against job discrimination. But as long as there is one Negro—one human being, no matter what his color—lynched in America, then we must keep up the fight.

P. M. — New York, N. Y.



Machines know no color line, they produce as well for the Negro as they do for the man with a lighter skin. This young Negro, working a machine in Astoria, Queens, proves the point. *Photo by NYA*

Fair Employment Staff Too Small

The President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices doesn't need more penal sanctions to do its job—it needs a bigger staff.

That is the opinion of Larence W. Cramer, its executive secretary. He is a former Governor of the Virgin Islands and a former instructor in Government at Columbia University.

In PM's survey of the Negro question in the South yesterday, Victor H. Bernstein stressed as one of three primary objectives:

"We must move with all possible speed for equal economic opportunities for the Negro. Anti-Negro job discrimination and training discrimination is building for us a tragic deficit in manpower—a deficit doubly tragic because we are building it wilfully, deliberately, and with our eyes open to the joy it must be giving Hitler."

Anti-discrimination is Cramer's crusade. Commenting on the PM analysis, he said:

"We are trying to carry out the President's executive order, and with some success, but an additional staff is necessary for a better job.

"The Committee has teeth it can use. It is not a matter of more penal sanctions; it is more a matter of technique. Up to now we have been doing organization work primarily.

"More field men, more office help are needed. We have made a budget request for them.

"Despite our limitations, we have made some progress."

He revealed that the committee's whole staff, including secretarial help, now numbers only 25. He wants it increased to more than 200.

The President's non-discrimination order, affecting all Federal contracts, was issued in 1941. It was a simple statement to the effect that if you want to manufacture things for the Government, you've got to employ workers without regard to race, color, or creed.

SEP 10 1942

USW Denounces Guffey Plan

The United Steel Workers, CIO, at Pittsburgh yesterday called on Sen. Joseph F. Guffey (D., Pa.), to withdraw his support of wartime sales and payroll taxes which it charged would "soak the poor." The union called the proposal an attempt to evade taxing "high incomes, both private and corporate. . . ."

Congress May Act Soon on Poll Tax

The National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax, campaigning for four months to get the Pepper-Geyer anti-poll tax bill out of committee, where it has been sidetracked since January, 1941, today was confident it would succeed this week.

The petition to discharge the bill and force it to the House for consideration needs the signatures of only 10 more Congressmen.

So far, 209 members of the House have signed, including Rep. Joseph Gavagan (D., N. Y.) author of a similar measure, who had been holding out, apparently in the hope that his own bill would get action.

PM readers who want to join the fight against an evil which threatens the democratic rights of Americans everywhere can best serve by demanding that their Congressmen join the movement for elimination of the poll tax.

Here are the names of Congressmen in New York State who have not signed the poll-tax petition:

Walter Andrews, R., Buffalo.
Charles A. Buckley, D., Bronx.
E. Harold Cluett, R., Troy.
W. Sterling Cole, R., Bath.
Thomas H. Cullen, D., Brooklyn.
Fred J. Douglas, R., Utica.
Ralph A. Gamble, R., Larchmont.
Leonard W. Hall, R., Nassau.
Clarence E. Hancock, R., Syracuse.
Martin J. Kennedy, D., New York.
Clarence E. Kilburn, R., Malone.
Joseph J. O'Brien, R., East Rochester.
Daniel A. Reed, R., Dunkirk.
Lewis K. Rockefeller, R., Chatham.
John Taber, R., Auburn.
James W. Wadsworth, R., Geneseo.

A committee spokesman said:

"The five-to-one vote in favor of the report on the soldiers' vote bill (*see Page* 14) is a clear indication of the will of Congress and the American people to wipe out this un-American restriction immediately . . .

"Despite the defeatist efforts of columnists like Mark Sullivan and Congressmen like John Rankin, the efforts of all branches of organized labor, the AFL, the CIO, railroad brotherhoods and hundreds of leading church and civic organizations of southern people and thousands of other groups . . . have been successful in winning a large majority of members of both the Senate and the House to support immediate passage of anti-poll tax legislation."

Anti-Lynch Law Shelved by House

PM's Bureau

SEP 10 1942

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10.—Anti-lynching legislation introduced by Rep. Joseph Gavagan (D.,-N.Y.) is in the hands of the House Judiciary Committee, headed by reactionary Hatton Sumners (D.,-Tex.). It will stay there until forced out by a "discharged" petition.

A spokesman for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said that no current campaign was being waged to force action on the bill "because other problems produced by the war—such as discrimination in industry—seem more important and demand immediate attention."

SEP 10 1942

Pointing out that there has been a sharp decline in number of lynchings in recent months, the NAACP representative said his organization did not plan any immediate drive for enactment of the bill unless the trend is reversed. In other words, Negroes are getting kicked around plenty, but—at the moment—very few are being lynched.

McNutt Issues Appeal

By United Press

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10.—Chairman Paul V. McNutt of the War Manpower Commission yesterday appealed for "prompt and vigorous co-operation from management and labor" in application of the Commission's program to relieve growing labor shortages in the western lumbering and nonferrous metal industries.

On Tuesday, the Commission virtually "froze" approximately 200,000 workers in these industries by designating 12 western and southwestern states as a "critical labor area."

Wilkins Calls 3 Points Basic

SEP 10 1942

Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and editor of *The Crisis*, characterized the three points in the Bernstein editorial as basic to any correction of the situation in the South.

¶ "Many of the Negro's difficulties stem from the fact that he is defenseless in so far as the franchise is concerned. Moreover, the white people of his same class, who suffer many of the same disabilities, likewise are defenseless.

"If the poll tax could be repealed, the Negro could help himself and so help the whole South.

SEP 10 1942

¶ "The crushing of the lynching spirit is absolutely essential, because, as Bernstein points out, it is not simply the overt act of lynching which is the bane of the South, but the lynching spirit of brutal physical controls which must be stamped out.

¶ "The matter of economic opportunity for the Negro, first of all, will aid the war effort by bringing all available man power into service. But it also will help the Negro towards economic self-sufficiency, so he can buy the goods and services which will make him a stable, contributing citizen to the community where he lives.

SEP 10 1942

"The ramifications are many: he can keep in better health, educate his children more fully, buy land and a home, and generally take his place as a responsible citizen, instead of occupying the status of a ward."

Orders Wage Boost

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10.—The Caterpillar Co. of Peoria, Ill., was ordered yesterday by the War Labor Board to increase wages of 13,000 workers five cents an hour. The vote, based on the Little Steel formula, was unanimous.

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALABAMA

6930

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

NEGRO IS SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR ATTACK

FEB 5 1942

Guard Placed Around Courthouse At Arkansas City

Special to The Commercial Appeal

ARKANSAS CITY, Ark., Feb. 4.—A guard of state patrolmen, deputy sheriffs and local officers was thrown around the Desha County courthouse here Wednesday as Stoney Allison, negro ex-convict, was given the death penalty after a short trial on a charge of attacking Young McGehee married woman.

FEB 5 1942

Although the officers maintained strict order there was no excitement.

Testimony introduced by the state included a confession made by the negro at the time of his capture in Monroe, La.

The prosecuting witness testified she was awakened before dawn by the negro, who had entered her room, where she was sleeping with her infant son, and exhibiting a gun, demanded money. The woman said that when she told the negro she did not have any money he dragged her into an adjoining room and assaulted her.

Allison did not take the stand or offer any testimony in his behalf.

The jury required only six minutes to reach its verdice.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

NYA DIRECTOR'S TRIAL FOR MURDER SET TODAY

Spectators To Be Searched At Arkadelphia

APR 30 1942

'VIOLENT WORDS' WRITTEN

Sheriff Says Precautions Taken To Prevent Harm To Kirby Jones, Accused Of Slaying Former Secretary

Special to The Commercial Appeal

ARKADELPHIA, Ark., April 29.—Sheriff William Wells Wednesday said spectators at the first degree murder trial of Kirby Jones, charged with killing his former secretary, Miss Mary Dell Furlow of Ashdown, will be searched for weapons. The trial begins Thursday morning at 9 o'clock.

The officer said the precautions were being taken to prevent any attempt to harm the defendant. Jones has received several letters couched in violent words, although no threats were made, Sheriff Wells said.

APR 30 1942

Crowded Courtroom Expected

A crowded courtroom is expected throughout the trial.

Information filed by Prosecuting Atty. Richard Huie charges that Miss Furlow came to her death as a result of a blow on the head by a blunt instrument wielded by Jones. The defendent told officers the girl died as a result of an operation she performed upon herself in his presence on Grindstone Ridge, a wooded mountain region eight miles north of Arkadelphia on Sunday, Feb. 1.

An autopsy, performed at University Hospital, Little Rock, is expected to furnish revealing evidence, the prosecutor said.

Arrested Feb. 3

Jones was arrested Feb. 3 at Dumas, where he was a NYA supervisor, upon complaint of the girl's father, Lee Furlow of Texarkana. He was brought to Arkadelphia and placed in jail. He took officers to Calion, 100 miles south of here, on Feb. 8, and directed them in grappling for the body in 30 feet of water in the Ouachita River, almost under the 70-foot highway bridge from which he admitted he had tossed it on Feb. 1.

According to Sheriff Wells, Jones said that he drove from Dumas to Arkadelphia Feb. 1 and phoned Miss Furlow to meet him at a bus station here. Then he drove her to Grindstone Ridge. He said he assisted the girl in preparing for the operation and that it resulted fatally. Obtaining a log chain, he said he trussed up the body, leaving it clad only in a slip, shoes and stockings. That night he tossed the body into the river, then drove to his home in Ashdown. He said he disposed of her other clothing by throwing it into the Red River.

Ashdown Was Home

APR 30 1942

Miss Furlow's home was at Ashdown and she was Jones' secretary in NYA work until she was transferred to Arkadelphia on Dec. 23. Jones took a NYA supervisor's duties at Dumas. The girl was graduated from Ashdown High School in 1941. She was a popular student and a member of various school organizations. Jones, a native of Faulkner County, had lived at Stamps prior to moving to Ashdown. He is married and has a family.

37k-1942
Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

FLORIDA

6916

Holland Lauds State Troopers For Lynch Halt

DEFUNIAK SPRINGS, Fla.—On the eve of a planned hurried trial and the eventual electric chair death of Alfred Snipes, 39-year-old Negro, Governor Holland last Friday issued a statement from the capital at Tallahassee commending the State Defense Force of nearby Marianna, from where the late lynch victim, Claude Neal, hailed, for helping to avert possible interracial trouble in this city last week after Sheriff Robert Gatlin was slain when he had attempted to search the home of Snipes without a warrant.

Special

Snipes evaded officers for 36 hours and was rushed to State Prison Farm at Raiford for safe keeping after being apprehended. The governor sent the Defense Force company to this county to assist the State Highway Patrol in keeping order when the death of Gatlin and the beating of his lone deputy left the county without an enforcement officer with county-wide jurisdiction.

UNWARRANTED SEARCH

Meanwhile plans are going ahead speedily to try Snipes on a first degree murder indictment. It was reported that the late sheriff and a deputy went to Snipes' home intent on searching the premises for moonshine liquor, but met with trouble when they attempted to do so over Snipes' protest. The sheriff was shot and killed almost instantly and his chief deputy is said to have been badly beaten by Snipes.

Whether the trial will be held in this city, due to race feeling, is not known at this time, but reports that a change of venue is expected by counsel for the defense of the life of Snipes. The county judge here reported that the dead sheriff and his aide were armed with search warrants, but it has been claimed by Snipes' counsel that they possessed none.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Sheriff Denies Foul Play; Offers Reward for Negro

[By Telegraph Staff Correspondent]

COCHRAN, June 24—Sheriff John D. Padgett of Bleckley county today offered a reward of $25 for information leading to the arrest of Johnnie Brown, 19-year-old Negro, who escaped from the sheriff Saturday night.

Padgett and City Policeman John Smith were taking the Negro to Hawkinsville to prevent any possible mob violence. The prisoner was accused of having cut Special Policeman John Coley Jr., son of Chief John Coley. Padgett said the Negro lowered the window on the rear seat of his two-door sedan and squeezed his body through, dropped to the roadway and fled into the swamp. The car was traveling slowly due to an approaching bridge and an oncoming truck. The escape was noticed by Smith in time for them to get out of the car and see the Negro fleeing. The window glass was broken.

"Bloodhounds trailed the Negro for eight miles, but lost the scent," the sheriff said. "You know, there are people in this town that do not believe me," he explained. "There are some who think I have the Negro hidden in another jail and there are others who think I shot him and left him in the river. I can assure you I do not have him in another jail and on top of that it would not make sense for me to take him over into another county to shoot him. He escaped all right and I would not have had it happen for a hundred dollar bill." The sheriff said he was notifying other counties of the escape. He said there would be an effort to have the Negro indicted for assault with intent to murder by the next grand jury. At present there are no warrants out against him.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Eastman Trial Set Today For Macon Lawyer

EASTMAN, Ga., July 20.—D. Lee Churchwell, Macon attorney, is slated to go on trial at 10 a.m. Tuesday in city court here on a charge of common barratry.

Churchwell, charged with persistent litigation following the famed "Judge Lynch" case, will be represented by Harry Strozier and W. A. Bootle, Macon attorneys. Solicitor W. A. Wooten will be on the prosecutor.

T. A. Jacob Jr., Macon attorney, has been employed to represent Eddie Lee Spivey, Negro charged with barratry. Solicitor Wooten said he would determine during the course of Churchwell's trial whether or not to bring Spivey to trial.

Spivey, only man ever returned alive by a lynch mob and later acquitted by a Bibb superior court jury of raping a white woman, was indicated with his attorney, Churchwell, for barratry.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Women Halt Lynching Of Georgia Man

HAMILTON, Ga., (ANP)—A mob that formed June 26 to lynch a Negro registrant who is said to have peeped through the bedroom window of a prominent white family here trying to "do something to keep from going to the army", was restrained from putting Lawton Walker to death by the wives of the mobsters who received their husbands on the lynch mission.

Colored citizens here say that Walker was severely beaten and then jailed until he was inducted July 6.

The wives of the mobsters are said to have appealed to their husbands not to kill Walker because it would hurt morale.

GEORGIA

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Veteran Officer At Tifton Slain

Soldier Is Held on Charge of Murder In Killing of Police Chief Henderson

[Special to The Telegraph-News]

TIFTON, July 18—Chief of Police Joseph Henderson, 54, was shot and killed last night and two other people wounded by a soldier who had been arrested and then broke away from his captors. Special Investigator W. Ross of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation said he had placed a charge of murder against Joseph L. Palmer, 25, a soldier stationed at Elgin Field, Fla. The soldier reported by witnesses to have been drunk, was rushed to another jail for safekeeping.

DENBY WOUNDED

Mercer Denby, night police officer, who with Chief Henderson, had made the arrest on the complaint of the soldier's sister, according to police, is in the Tifton county hospital with a bullet wound in his stomach. His condition is considered serious.

According to witnesses an eight or nine year old girl also was wounded slightly and was taken from the scene by bystanders.

Ross said Palmer was here visiting his sister and had stolen a gun from the store in which she works. He said the sister reported the theft of Officer Denby who arrested Palmer shortly after he had left the store.

PALMER BROKE LOOSE

While he was being taken to the police station, Ross said, Palmer broke loose from Denby, snatched the officer's gun and shot him in the right side.

A Tifton police officer said it was Chief Henderson's gun which fired the fatal shot. The chief had gone to assist Denby in making the arrest.

Ross said Palmer was apprehended after a short chase by Patrolman T. G. Burk. Patrolman Burk shot Palmer in the arm and leg during the chase.

Chief Henderson had been head of the Tifton police department for 15 years.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Churchwell Hearing Ends In Mistrial

Witness' Remark Upsets Proceedings

By M. L. ST. JOHN
[Telegraph Staff Writer]

EASTMAN, July 21—The barratry trial of D. Lee Churchwell, Macon attorney, came to an abrupt close at 5 p.m. Tuesday, when Judge Herbert S. Strickland ordered the jury withdrawn and declared a mistrial.

Reason for the mistrial ruling was a statement made from the stand by the prosecutor, Dodge County Commissioner John R. C. Jones, which Judge Strickland said would prevent a fair and impartial trial.

The statement came when Solicitor W. A. Wooten asked Jones if a letter written by Churchwell vexed him.

"Well," Jones replied. "It worried me, but he didn't come near getting any money out of me. It worried me to think that I had to deal with a crook."

STATEMENT DAMAGING

Judge Strickland of the Jesup city court, presiding for Judge A. R. Ross, who disqualified himself as a relative to Jones, said that he feared no amount of charging he could do would erase the damage done by this statement.

"In the future, let us all think before we make statements," the judge said. "In fact, let us all think before we get into trouble; let us devote our time to the war effort and let the courts go out of business."

Defense Attorneys W. A. Bootle, Harry Strozier and Q. J. Franklin last night prepared to appeal the case to the Court of Appeals as it now stands—with a mistrial verdict. Grounds of their appeal is that the alligation does not make out a case of barratry.

Eddie Lee Spivey, former Negro client of Churchwell's who also was indicted for barratry and who was being held in the Fitzgerald jail by the state as a witness, was released Tuesday night under $300 bond. Solicitor Wooten said he did not plan to call Spivey's case until Churchwell's case is disposed of.

With every seat filled, extra chairs added and people standing in the rear of the room, the courtroom was jammed in this hot July weather for the trial of Churchwell.

TRIAL INTERRUPTED

The trial, which began about 2:20 p.m. after the morning was spent in arguing a motion for change of venue and a demurrer, was suddenly interrupted while the first state witness was testifying.

The prosecution told the court it had just learned that one of the jurors, Ivy Wright, was related to Commissioner Jones. Wright said he did not know he was related, but it turned out that his wife was a distant relative of the commissioner. Wright was disqualified, and P. H. Woodward replaced him in the box.

The other jurors—chosen after the defense struck six, the state five, and six showed cause—were: Eugene Bowen, J. B. McWhorter, R. F. Braswell, J. L. Lancaster, W. W. Bond, H. B. Lowery, D. J. Cannon, G. A. Woodward, J. M. Brown, Robert Kytle, and T. H. Hemphill.

The state sought to show that Churchwell practiced common barratry by suing Sheriff J. C. Lewis for damages and for threatening to sue Commissioner Jones. Lewis' suit, settled out of court, charged the sheriff with with failure to protect Spivey from a lynch mob. A letter which Churchwell allegedly wrote Jones, charged the commissioner with being a leader of the mob, of hitting Spivey on the head with a pistol and offered to let Jones settle for cash rather than face embarrassment of a trial.

OLD LAW CITED

Defense attorneys cited a law o
old England of 1660, adopted, the
said, by the state of Georgia, t
show that three instances of bar
ratry must be shown before
person can be convicted. Even i
their client was guilty of the Lewi
suit as barratry—which they de
nied—the state would have onl
one case, they said.

The prosecution staff, composed
of Wooten, City Court Solicito
Lester F. Watson of Dublin, and
Hal Smith of Eastman, contended
that the letter to Jones constitut-
ed a "quarrel" which would be the
second suit or quarrel, and tha
two instances are sufficient.

Judge Strickland upheld th
prosecution's contention in over-
ruling the demurrer and lettin
the case go to trial. It was on
these grounds that the defense ap-
pealed to the Court of Appeals.

Judge Strickland also overrule
Churchwell's plea for a change o
venue, when the defense claime
he could not get a fair trial i
Eastman. The defense also ha
contended that the suit agains
Lewis was filed in the Bibb su-
perior court, and was not under
the jurisdiction of the Dodg
county court. The prosecutio
said, however, that all counts o
barratry do not have to occur i
the same county, and the cas
can be tried in any of the coun
ties involved.

Sheriff J. C. Lewis was the firs
witness for the state. He testifie
as to settling the suit out of court

"Were the allegations in the sui
true?" Lewis was asked.

"No," he replied.

His answer was stricken fro
the record by Judge Strickland o
the grounds that the truth o
falseness of the allegations wer
not material in the barratry cas

Later the judge reversed thi
ruling and re-entered the sheriff'
answer.

This occurred when Commis
sioner Jones was asked if it wer
true that he was a member of th
mob and hit Spivey with a pisto
as charged in Churchwell's lette
The defense objected to Jones an
swering the question, citing Judg
Strickland's ruling on the sheriff
answer. Then the judge decided t
permit both state witnesses to an
swer the question.

Jones declared he did not h
Spivey, stated he was not a mem
ber of the mob, and said he w
not present at the time.

On the next question of whethe
or not the letter worried hin
Jones came forth with the state
ment that led the judge to declar
a mistrial. The judge declared
10 minute recess to "let everyon
cool off," and then announced h
decision.

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

White Women Halt Lynching of Young Draftee in Georgia

"Would Hurt Morale," Wives Tell Gang As Many Got on Knees and Prayed

(Special Correspondence)

HAMILTON, Ga.—How a lynch-mob was stopped in its tracks by a group of white women, who argued that "We can't permit a lynching in this town, because it would be bad on national morale," was told to investigators here this week after Lawton Walker, the accused suspect, was inducted into the army.

Wives of many members of the mob, it was said, followed their armed husbands on June 26 until they promised not to harm Walker, who had been arrested for allegedly peeping into the room of a white woman.

As some of the women argued the point of "national welfare," others got on their knees and prayed.

Finally, the would-be lynchers dispersed but only after giving Walker a severe beating and ordering him held in jail until the day of his induction.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia
Courthouse News

Assault Case Brought Here; Negro Woman Gets Acquittal

JAN 1 5 1942

The second "transferred" criminal assault case in two court terms involving a Negro man and a white woman will be tried in Bibb superior court today.

Coming here from Jones county is the case of Robert Walker, Negro, charged with criminally assaulting a 40-year-old white woman near Gray in December. Walker was rushed to the Bibb jail by Sheriff J. P. Hawkins shortly after the crime was committed, and Judge J. B. Jackson of Jones county granted him a change of venue to the Bibb superior court.

Sheriff Hawkins said the victim positively identified Walker as her attacker. He said he shot Walker when the latter drew a gun at the time of the arrest. The gun, the state will contend, was stolen from the house where the woman was attacked. Walker denied he attacked the woman, said he bought the gun from another Negro, and declared he was not planning to shoot the sheriff when he drew it from his pocket.

Bibb superior court spent a week in December trying a Dodge county criminal attack case.

Trial of the assault case will follow completion this morning of the trial of Chester Thomas, Negro charged with burglary. Thomas is accused of burglarizing Hut No. 1. Defense Attorney Grady Gillon and Solicitor Charles Garrett will make their closing arguments this morning.

JAN 1 5 1942

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

MAN SUES SHERIFF FOR MOB INJURIES

JAN 3 - 1942

MACON, Ga., Jan. 1—Eddie Lee Spivey, only man ever returned alive by a lynch mob, is suing the Dodge county, Ga., sheriff for $5,000 for failure to perform his duties.

The Dodge Negro was acquitted by a Bibb superior court jury December 5 of charges of raping an elderly white woman.

His attorneys, D. L. Churchwell and Robert S. Horne, filed suit last Friday in Bibb superior court against Sheriff John G. Lewis of Dodge county and the National Surety Corporation of New York.

Spivey claims the sheriff voluntarily turned the keys over to the mob June 5 at Eastman, so they could come and get him. He contends the sheriff could have protected him and could have moved him to a place of safety, but that instead the officer voluntarily and wilfully surrendered him to the mob to do what they wanted with him.

JAN 3 - 1942

Spivey described tortures which he said the mob inflicted upon him in a futile attempt to make him confess. The petition says the Negro can never again beget children. After Spivey refused to confess, the mob returned him to Eastman jail "for lack of evidence."

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

'Fire Lynching' Case Is Probed

APR 30 1942

[Special to The Telegraph]

KNOXVILLE, Ga., April 29—Robert Bingham of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and State Fire Marshal V. W. Crawford arrived here Wednesday and launched an investigation into the apparent attempted "fire lynching" of J. E. Wade Jr., convicted arson slayer.

APR 30 1942

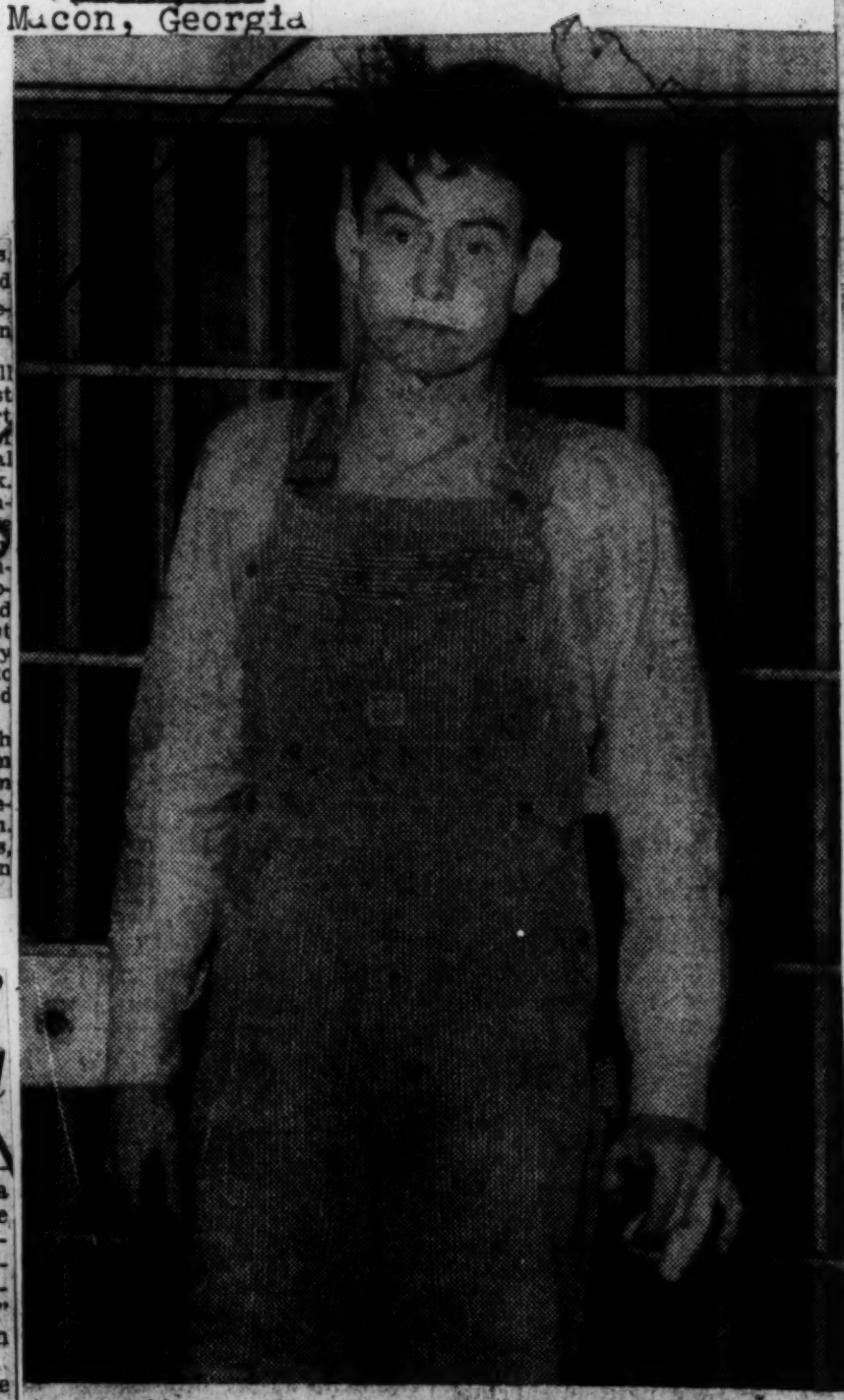
The state officers inspected the partially-burned jail which Wade said was set on fire by a mysterious trio early Tuesday morning.

They talked with Wade in his cell at the Bibb county jail, where he was carried for safekeeping, and with Sheriff L. R. O'Neal who brought Wade from the smoke-filled jail.

Prior to inspecting the jail, Mr. Crawford said:

"Wade said that three men set fire to the jail, and Sheriff O'Neal said he is confident the fire was caused by arsonists."

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia



Arson Slayer Saved From 'Fire Lynching'

SCORCHED HAIR tousled and burns bandaged, J. E. Wade Jr. is shown here in the Bibb county jail following his rescue by Sheriff L. R. O'Neal when the Knoxville jail caught fire. (Staff photo by Fackelman.)

State Agents Probe Attempt To Burn Wade

APR 28 1942

Agents of the state bureau of investigation and the state fire marshal will launch an investigation today into an apparent attempt to "lynch by fire" a convicted arson slayer by burning the Crawford county jail early Tuesday.

Sheriff L. R. O'Neal of Crawford county said last night he had kept the partially-damaged jail at Knoxville locked pending the arrival of the state officers.

J. E. Wade Jr., 21-year-old Crawford countian under life sentence for the arson murder of Rufus Dent, was burned about the ears, upper lip, and fingers in the fire about 2 a.m.

MYSTERIOUS TRIO JAILED

He accused a mysterious trio of entering the jail, pouring gasoline on some bedding down the hall from his cell, and setting fire to it. He was the lone occupant of the jail at the time. Wade said the trio referred to each other as "No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3," instead of by names. They first told him, he related, that they had come to help him break jail. Then they made an unsuccessful effort to set fire to the mattress in his cell before igniting the bedding from another cell.

Calhoun Culverhouse, who lived near the jail, discovered the fire and notified the sheriff.

The sheriff found the lock to the outside door broken when he reached the scene and rushed into the jail to rescue Wade.

Confidence that the "fire lynching" attempt would be solved was expressed last night by Judge A. M. [Phil] Anderson of the Macon judicial circuit.

"If the attempted burning was malicious and willful, as reports seem to indicate, I feel certain that the people of Crawford county and the officials of this circuit will get to the bottom of it," Judge Anderson said.

APR 28 1942

Sheriff O'Neal informed the judge and Solicitor Charles Garrett, who is ill at his home here, of the fire.

APR 28 1942

He requested Royal K. Mann, head of the state prison board, to send state bureau of investigation agents to Knoxville. Wade's papers had been mailed to the state prison board for assignment to a prison camp. Sheriff O'Neal also called State Fire Marshal V. W. Crawford, Atlanta, to join the investigation.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
May 8, 1942

Dodge Sheriff Settles Suit Involving Attempted Lynching

Sheriff J. C. Lewis of Dodge county and his bondsmen made a financial settlement with Eddie Lee Spivey, Negro, only person ever returned alive by a lynch mob, here yesterday, and a $5,000 damage suit was dismissed from the Bibb superior court. The suit charged the sheriff with negligence in letting the mob take the prisoner from the Eastman jail.

The amount of the settlement was not revealed by D. Lee Churchwell, attorney for Spivey. All members of the Eastman bar represented the sheriff, while Harry McCowan of Atlanta was attorney for the National Surety Corporation, Lewis' bondsman. Judge Malcom D. Jones signed the order dismissing the damage suit at the request of the plaintiff.

Spivey was acquitted in the criminal division of Bibb superior court of a charge of criminally assaulting a Dodge county white woman.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Negro Is Held After Knifing Cochran Cop

[*Special to The Telegraph-News*]

COCHRAN, June 20.—A Negro, Johnnie Brown, 19, was taken from the city Saturday night for safe keeping by Sheriff J. D. Padgett after the Negro had allegedly slashed John Coley, son of the chief of police here, who was acting as special officer at the time.

According to Sheriff Padgett, Coley had arrested Brown for being drunk and was taking him to the jail in Cochran when the Negro drew a knife, slashed at the officer and then took the policeman's pistol and fled.

A group of men from the town chased the Negro, captured him and held him until Padgett arrived. He was held temporarily in the Cochran jail and later the sheriff took him to another county for safe keeping. He is charged with assault with intent to murder.

Padgett said last night that despite the incident the town was quite. Coley was not seriously injured.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

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Albemarle Place: Sylvester Byrd, $450 frame dwelling on Byrd avenue; Nathaniel Williams, $278.28 frame dwelling on Toombs street; Mary Humphries, $400 frame dwelling at 319 Williams street; George D. Foster, $250 repairs to dwelling at 14 Berthadale avenue; and J. Melton Pettigrew, re-paint dwelling on Rice Mill road.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Spivey Case Engulfs Attorney Churchwell on Barratry Count

By EARL WATSON

The trials of Eddie Lee Spivey, Negro, onetime defendant in a "Judge Lynch" case at Eastman, yesterday had engulfed his attorney.

D. Lee Churchwell, who represented Spivey in his successful court fight against a rape charge, posted bonds aggregating $800 yesterday covering a felony charge of threatening a Dodge county commissioner in a letter, and a misdemeanor allegation of barratry.

Churchwell alone was named in the warrant charging the threat; the attorney and Spivey were jointly accused in the barratry warrant which carries the implication that the pair "persistently incited litigation."

BREAK FAILED

Earlier in the day, Spivey made a futile and pailful break for liberty just as Dodge county officers drove away from the courthouse to return him to Eastman. Lunging through a shatter-proof automobile window glass, he landed in the street, only to be summarily stuffed back through the same hole by "Big Willie" Dennis, Negro stalwart at the courthouse, who happened alo

The Negro, when arrested at Solomon Motor Company here by Bibb Deputy J. C. Calhoun, had shouted: "Oh God, they're going to kill me."

Last summer, Spivey had been taken from his cell at Eastman while awaiting trial on a white woman's charge, had withstood the best the mob could send at him, and had been returned to jail to enter the national spotlight. He later won his freedom on the charge in a trial here.

Dodge County Deputies M. J. Holt and D. A. Lewis brought the warrants to Macon accusing the attorney and his client. The warrant for Churchwell charged commission of "a felony by sending and delivering to Commissioner John R. C. Jones a threatening letter, threatening to accuse him of a crime, for the purpose of extorting money."

JURY TO CONVENE

The warrant is returnable Monday at Eastman, and the Dodge county grand jury is scheduled to assemble the same day.

The misdemeanor charge of barratry against Churchwell and Spivey will probably be aired on July 13 at Eastman.

Deputies Lewis and Holt implied yesterday that Spivey's role is mainly that of a material witness in the barratry case. They indicated further that there is no noticable mob spirit existing against the Negro in Dodge county.

BONDS SIGNED

Churchwell's bonds of $500 on the felony warrant and $300 in the misdemeanor were signed by H. B. Bloodworth. As the collateral was posted at the sheriff's office, Churchwell read all details of the warrants carefully and requested that copies be made.

He referred all requests for comment to Attorney Harry S. Strozier, whom he termed his representative. Strozier said he referred not to commnt until he had examined the warrants and studied the cases.

Meanwhile, Spivey was back in the Dodge county jail where he has spent the most harrowing moments of his life.

Venue Change Given Accused Rape-Slayer

Courier Journal

Trial to Go From Perry to Fayette

Louisville, Ky.

Hazard, Ky., June 11 (AP)— Heavily guarded, James Lee "Wildman" Robertson, who is charged with the rape-slaying of Bertha Lehman, 26, religious teacher, was granted a change of venue today by Circuit Judge Roy Helm.

JUN 12 1942

Robertson, a Negro, has been confined to the Fayette County jail at Lexington since he was captured May 16, a few hours after the body of Miss Lehman, director of religious education at the Presbyterian Church, was found.

JUN 12 1942

Courier Journal

Moved In Secrecy

With as much secrecy as possible Robertson was brought here at 6 a.m. from Lexington under escort of sheriff's deputies, state highway patrolmen and Hazard city police. He was returned to Lexington after the brief hearing.

All persons entering the court house were carefully searched for weapons. No disorder was reported.

JUN 12 1942

At the time Miss Lehman's body was found there was intense feeling in the town.

37k

Indicted for Rape.

A Perry County grand jury yesterday indicted Robertson on a charge of murder in connection with the slaying of the woman and this morning he was indicted on a charge of rape.

Judge Helm, at the request of Sam Ward, Hazard attorney, who was appointed by the court to defend the prisoner, granted Robertson a change of venue to Fayette Circuit Court and set June 18 as the date of the trial on both charges.

37k-1942

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

STEPFATHER HELD IN RAPE, SLAYING OF SCHOOLGIRL

Police Hide Suspect to Balk Lynching.

JUN 3 - 1942

New Orleans, La., June 2 (Special) —George Rushing, convicted sex criminal, was taken to an unnamed Louisiana city for safekeeping by Hammond police today following the death in a hospital here of his 14 year old stepdaughter, Hazel Leblanc, who was raped and battered with an ax in the Rushing home early yesterday.

Crowds in Hammond and thruout the adjoining territory have expressed a determination to lynch Rushing if he can be found. State police and sheriff's deputies are patroling the streets and keeping watchful eyes on the crowds.

JUN 3 - 1942

Struck with Ax 13 Times.

Rushing has told police he was asleep at the time of the attack on the girl. Awakened by the girl's screams, he rushed to her room and found her missing, he said. He then went to the front yard and discovered her in the front yard, semiconscious and covered with blood, he asserted. Beside her was a hand ax belonging to Rushing with which she had apparently been struck on the head 12 or 13 times.

Hazel went to a theater with a young man Sunday night, Rushing said, returning about 10:30 p. m. He said he did not know the name of her escort. In the house at the time of the rape were three other children, one of them a 3 year old boy who was sleeping in a bed with Rushing.

JUN 3 - 1942

Two Year Term.

Records from Brookhaven, Miss., show that Rushing pleaded guilty there in January, 1933, to an attack on a minor girl. He was sentenced to two years in a Mississippi penitentiary and was later transferred to the Mississippi State Hospital for the Insane, according to the records. He was released in December, 1934.

Hazel was a student in the Hammond High school.

Birmingham Post
Birmingham, Alabama

EX-CONVICT IS HELD ON ATTACK CHARGES

OCT 29 1942

By United Press

OAK GROVE, La., Oct. 29.—Isom Cummins, 34-year-old farmer, was held in an undisclosed jail today on charges of attacking a 14-year-old high school girl.

328

OCT 29 1942

He denied al knowledge of the alleged attack.

Cummins, former inmate of the Missouri State Prison, came here nine months ago from Oklahoma. He was released on bond from the local jail last Saturday after being charged with the theft of automobile tires.

LOUISIANA

6918

37k-1942
Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

MARYLAND

6919

Dixie Whites Foiled in Lynch Try Here

SEP 12 1942

BALTIMORE

A lynching was narrowly averted Wednesday when Gus White, 28, of Appeals, Md., was spirited away from that city to Baltimore by friendly after he had allegedly beaten a Southern white man who called him an insulting name, according to information given the AFRO.

White is now in Baltimore at the home of his aunt, Mrs. William H. Johnson, 2011 Druid Hill Avenue, and is scheduled to face trial in Prince Frederick at 10 a.m. Saturday on assault and battery charges lodged by the white man, Daniel Barrett.

Mrs. Johnson told the AFRO that she had arranged for a State police escort to pick them up in Huntington and ride with them to the trial in Prince Frederick as a safeguard against another lynching threat.

The trouble is said to have begun on Sunday when the white man, foreman on a government project at Dowell, Md., went in the colored section of Appeals in a drunken condition and attacked a colored man with a hatchet.

SEP 12 1942

The man is said to have taken the hatchet from the white foreman and beat him. When some other whites asked for the hatchet, White, who was nearby, told the man to hold on to it for it was his evidence that the man had attacked him.

As a result of this and an insulting remark from the white foreman, a fight took place.

Mob Surrounded Bus

White came to Baltimore afterwards and returned to work there on Wednesday. At the close of the work day, whites attempted to drag him from a bus and then followed the bus in an attempt to catch him when he alighted. With the help of friends, however, he escaped to Baltimore.

37k-1942

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

MEXICO

6920

Dead in Mexico

Mob Tries To Lynch Strangler

SEP 10 1942

By the Associated Press

Mexico City, Sept. 9.—Shouting men and women tried to mob Mexico City's student strangler today to avenge the slaying of four young women he garroted while diverting their attention with test tubes and books, and tonight police said his victims may actually number six or more.

The 27-year-old slayer, Gregorio Cardenas Hernandez, honor student in chemistry, already has confessed killing four women in less than a month, one of them his "only love." He said he kept her body for hours before burying it at dawn in a shallow grave in his garden.

Tonight police were trying to link Cardenas Hernandez with the strangling of yet another girl and the disappearance of a sixth.

A bootblack told them he had seen Cardenas about a week ago in a local cabaret in the company of a girl who later was found strangled in a cheap hotel. The boy said he recognized pictures of Cardenas published today.

SEP 10 1942

Another Girl Missing

Police also were informed by a woman named Camacho that her daughter went riding with a man unknown to the mother about 10 days ago, and has not been seen since.

Angry women with brooms and men with stones and pieces of metal attempted to reach Cardenas when police took him back to the garden to hear his story, but officers held them back.

"Better to kill him here and now," the crowd shouted.

The story as reported by police disclosed that three were strangled by the same cord as he momentarily diverted their attention to a book of a test tube in his rooms. He had met them in the streets.

Victim No. 1 has been identified as Berta Gonzalez, 18, slain on the night of August 10, when she was taken by surprise as she sat with

Her face was covered with her own clothing.

Victim No. 2, Cardenas declared, was never known to him and she has not been identified. She was given a book to read—and then the cord was drawn around her throat in a swift stroke of death.

Victim No. 3, apparently about 35 years old, was given a test tube from his laboratory study and then strangled as she looked at it.

Victim No. 4 was Craciela Arias Avalos, whom Cardenas avows he loved deeply, yet who is dead of that same uncontrollable hatred he said caused them all to die.

Couldn't Leave Her

Police said they suspected that the last girl died in a car when she resisted his advances.

"I caressed her for several hours," he said. "I couldn't bring myself to leave her. But dawn was coming so I covered the body of my adored with bed clothing and began shoveling in earth.

"I was burying my only love."

Newspapers quoted Cardenas as declaring, "I don't know what happens to me. A wave of hatred comes over me, the man in me disappears and is replaced by the beast. I don't know why but I can't help killing. I feel a terrible, tremendous, uncontrollable, desperate hatred."

SEP 10 1942

The newspapers quoted him as urging detectives to give him a chance to throw himself off a roof, declaring "I want to die."

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Angry Crowd Tries To Mob Slayer of Four

SEP 10 1942

Mexico City Police Say Victims May Number Six or More.

SEP 10 1942

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 9.—(AP)—Shouting men and women tried to mob Mexico City's student strangler today to avenge the slaying of four young women he garroted while diverting their attention with test tubes and books, and tonight police said his victims may actually number six or mre.

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SEP 10 1942

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SEP 10 1942

37k-1942
Kansas City Call
Kansas City Mo

6921

Rev. J. B. Ross Pursued By Crowd After Speech Condemning Lynching

Train Conductor Locks Preacher in Washroom, Then Tells Youthful Mob Members to 'Get the Hell Off Train'

SIKESTON, Mo. — Sikeston's thirst for lynching was not quenched with the lynching of Cleo Wright last January.

A second lynching was narrowly averted here last Wednesday morning when the Rev. J. B. Ross escaped mob violence only because a train conductor locked him in a washroom to hide him from a mob which chased him to the train, intent upon giving him "some of the same medicine" which Wright got.

The Rev. Mr. Ross, C.M.E. pastor who divides his time between St. Louis and Sikeston, spoke here Tuesday night, denouncing the lynching of Wright which stirred the whole country last winter because of its brutal nature.

Ten or 12 white men, learning that Ross had "dared" to speak out against the lynching, followed him to the Frisco depot where they heard the minister would board the 2 a.m. train.

Inspect Man's Teeth

Apparently they planned to identify Ross by his gold teeth. On the station platform the mob is reported to have stopped a Negro, made him open his mouth while his teeth were inspected. Finding the gold capped molars, the man was not further molested.

The mob then boarded the train in search of Rev. Ross. The white men asked the porter to let them board the train so they might "see a party."

With the mob literally on the heels of the minister, the train conductor, Charles C. Stroud of Chaffee, locked Ross in the washroom and then turned to the mob and reminded the white men that they were on railroad property and ordered them to "get the hell off this train."

All Under 20

Members of the mob are reported to have beaten upon the washroom door but Conductor Stroud succeeded in getting them off the train.

Stroud told a reporter upon his arrival in St. Louis that about 15 youths under 20 years of age came aboard the train right on the heels of the minister.

Stroud said that after locking the preacher in the washroom he then "talked the crowd out of whatever purpose they had in mind." He said the mob wanted to drag Ross from the train.

A passenger on the train, who would not permit use of his name, said that he saw the whole incident from the vestibule of an adjoining car.

Just Ahead of Mob

He said that Ross, badly frightened, boarded the train hurriedly about two minutes ahead of the mob.

He ran into the washroom immediately after a few hasty remarks to the conductor who locked the door as the mob clambered on the train and demanded the conductor to turn over the minister to them.

The passenger said that the conductor managed to get all members of the mob off the train just as the train pulled out. Rev. Ross locked himself in the washroom at all stops from here to St. Louis, but no further attempts were made to bother him.

D. M. Stratton, night operator at the depot, was busy working the baggage and mail and saw little of the incident. He said he sold several tickets to Negroes just as the train arrived but he knew nothing of the attempted mob violence.

Grabbed Coat-Tail

George Knox, Negro resident of Sikeston, told state troopers that he saw Ross running toward the train and that one member of the mob actually grabbed the pastor's coat-tail as he climbed aboard but that Ross pulled away.

Trooper L. L. Murphy went to the depot immediately but the train had just left the station.

The Rev. Mr. Ross had been active ever since the lynching of Wright in the campaign to bring members of the January mob to justice. He preached in St. Louis Sunday, then came here to conduct a revival service.

The minister is president of the N.A.A.C.P. branch organized here immediately after the lynching.

Ross bought a ticket from here to Ft. Madison, Iowa, to attend a district council of the C.M.E. church.

The near-lynching, according to the Sikeston Standard, daily paper here, followed rumblings of resentment against Ross since the lynching. "The minister," the paper said, "was among those who participated along with Mayor Becker of St. Louis in anti-lynching demonstrations following the death of Wright at the hands of a mob here.

"Ten days ago a reporter for the Standard was tipped that Ross had either received a beating at the hands of whites here or was scheduled to be given one. A check with police at the time disclosed no such an incident, however."

Negro Clergyman Menaced by Mob

PM Daily
New York, N.Y.
Special Correspondence

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 27.—The Rev. J. B. Ross, Negro clergyman, narrowly escaped violence at the hands of a white mob in Sikeston, Mo., early Wednesday after he had delivered an address denouncing the lynch murder of Cleo Wright, a Negro, in that southern Missouri city last January.

The Rev. Mr. Ross, a minister in the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church who divides his time between St. Louis and Sikeston, preached on the lynching here Sunday, then went to Sikeston. There he spoke before a Negro church audience Tuesday night.

Afterward the mob pursued him to the Frisco Railroad station, where he boarded a train for St. Louis just before the mob reached the platform. The conductor locked him in a men's washroom, where members of the mob hammered on the door until the conductor persuaded them to leave.

The St. Louis office of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People has protested to the Governor. The Rev. Ross had been a leader in demanding State and Federal action against the Sikeston lynchers.

SIKESTON MOB CHASES MINISTER TO TRAIN

Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

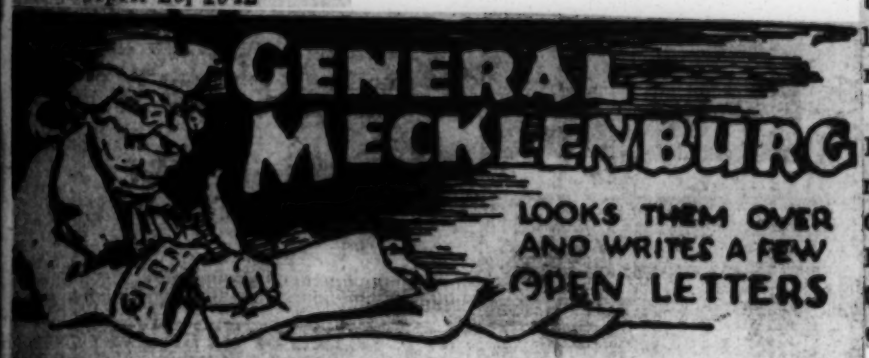
Hounded After Preaching Against Recent Lynching

SIKESTON, Mo.—(C N S)—One lynching victim this year has not quenched the blood-thirsty mob in this town. Because the Reverend J. B. Ross of St. Louis preached against the lynching of Cleo Wright which took place here in January, he was hounded to the Frisco railroad station and saved from the mob only because the conductor locked him in the men's washroom of the train.

Reverend Ross, a clergyman of the CME church and president of the NAACP branch organized here immediately after the lynching last January 25, came here Tuesday, August 25 and preached a sermon denouncing the lynching. Early Wednesday the mob, learning that he had "dared" to speak out, chased him to the station. He narrowly missed sharing the fate of Cleo Wright by boarding the train just ahead of the pack. Members of the mob followed him into the train and pounded on the door of the washroom until the conductor persuaded them to leave.

The St. Louis NAACP has called upon Governor Forrest Donnell of Missouri to take immediate action. Recently a federal grand jury investigating Cleo Wright's lynching issued a statement in which they deplored the crime, but found no basis for federal prosecution and returned no indictments, although members of that lynching gang were walking the streets every day and are known to the entire populace.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
April 26, 1942



Mr. F. C. Handy, Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
State Department of Justice.

Dear Mr. Handy:

You and the State Bureau of Investigation deserve congratulations upon the successful work you did in bringing about the conviction of five men in Person county superior court last week on charges of participating in a mob which stormed the jail in Roxboro last August in an attempt to lynch a Negro prisoner accused of rape.

The conviction of five of the ten men who had been arrested originally and charged with participation in the storming and damaging of the jail, is to the credit of your organization and the agents who were assigned to work on the case last year. The sheriff and other officers also deserve credit for their aid in the prosecution.

However, I think it unfortunate that the five were convicted of no more serious offense than "unlawful assembly," a misdemeanor, the maximum punishment for which is two years on the roads, two of them being given 18 months and the other three 12 months. "Unlawful assembly" in itself has little relation to lynching or attempt to lynch. It was due to the courage and intelligence of the sheriff and the activities of other police officers that North Carolina was saved from the shame of a lynching.

However, the State is to be congratulated that five men have been sentenced to terms on the roads for participation in North Carolina's latest case of attempt at lynching. Nobody has ever yet been punished or even arrested for the latest actual lynching in the state, which occurred some six or eight years ago. At that time North Carolina had no State Bureau of Investigation or State Department of Justice.

GENERAL MECKLENBURG.

Asheville, N. C., Citizen
April 25, 1942

A PROPER ENDING

In August of last year a mob stormed the Person County jail in an effort to seize —and presumably to lynch—a young negro held on a rape charge. The attempt was balked.

Several of the men implicated in this criminal undertaking were arrested. Thursday five were convicted and given road sentences ranging from twelve to eighteen months.

This is the proper ending of an enterprise that horrified the people of North Carolina. There is no room in this state for mobsters.

The agitation for a federal anti-lynch law continues. The best answer to it is furnished by the Superior Court of Person County. A jail sentence for one would-be lyncher does more to discourage lynching than all of the laws which Congress may enact.

Roanoke, Va., World News
May 4, 1942

How to Prevent Lynching

North Carolina has for many years been free both of the crime of lynching and of attempted mob murders. The reason for that freedom is not far to seek. They send members of lynching mobs to jail. Lynching in that State came to an end for a decade when ringleaders of the mob which stormed the Asheville jail went to the penitentiary.

Last August a mob gathered about the jail at Roxboro, where a Negro prisoner was being held. It did not succeed in breaking in or in harming the prisoner. The sheriff and his deputies were resolute in defense of their fortress.

Last week a jury in Roxboro convicted five of eight defendants charged with unlawful assembly. The judge sentenced three of them to eighteen months and the other two to twelve months. The report does not indicate whether the sentences are to be served in the jail they once attempted to take by storm.

The Norfolk *Virginian-Pilot* comments that five convictions from a mob reported to have been many times that number does not give evidence that the arm of the law is very long. Nor are the sentences severe. Nor is the fact that there was a delay of eight months between the offense and the conviction an example of that swift judicial determination which is in itself a deterring influence on crime.

However, the result of a calm and dispassionate trial long after the mob fever had cooled is an impressive example of a State's resolute determination that the majesty of its law shall not be invaded, that prisoners in the custody of its courts are not to be mishandled, and that there is a wide difference between public prosecution and private vengeance. Even those who after years of quiet decency attempt to revive the barbaric crime of lynching by attacking a jail in which a prisoner is confined are to feel the impact of the law.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

6923

Police Save Murderer

FEB 7 - 1942

By JOHN A. SAUNDERS

A man may have been unmercifully stoned and beaten at 19th and South streets last Friday afternoon but for precautionary measures and quick action on the part of alert police officials and uniformed officers.

Yes!.....Strange and unbelievable as it may seem, South Philadelphia was almost the scene of another crime as grotesque and sensational as the Josephine Cobb strangulation murder.

And this crime, if committed, would have been an ironic sequel to the brutal slaying of attractive Miss Cobb, for the appointed victim was none other than her confessed slayer, Herbert Green, alleged "brains" of the "strangulation killers!"

The demonstration against Green took place at about 12.30 p. m., shortly after he had finished reconstructing the murder of Miss Cobb in the cleaners and dyers shop at 1832 South street, where the young woman was slain.

Handcuffed To Officers

Handcuffed and surrounded by Sergeant Robert B. Forgy and Detective Charles Belgrove, who evidently were prepared for any kind of action on the part of the crowd collected in front of the establishment, Green was just about to be hustled into a police car when pandemonium broke loose.

Cries of "Hit that dog....Kick him....He ought to be lynched!" pierced the air, and three or four impetuous men and women surged forward. They struck Green, tried to grab him and hurled curses in his face.

A pretty young woman, probably just out of her teens, spat at the alleged killer, but missed by inches.

Before the crowd, about three or four hundred strong, could gain the upper hand, however, Sergeant O'Donnel of the Homicide Squad, ordered three uniformed officers into action.

FEB 7 - 1942

In the meatime, Forgy and Belgrove, now assisted by Detectives Morris and Butler, both white, had placed Green safely in the car, together with Ellsworth Woolyard, another suspect. They drove off hurriedly, and bystanders had to hustle for safety.

Reconstruct Strangling

Two minutes after their arrival at the South Street establishment from 2044 Catharine street, where the strangulation murder of 64-year-old Mrs. Melinda Green was reconstructed by Green, the crowd collected, coming from all directions.

The entire block of South street from 18th to 19th was practically filled with spectators. Motorists had to drive slowly and carefully to prevent running down men, women and children and trolley car traffic was held.

Scrawny, stoop-shouldered and timid looking, he probably wouldn't hurt a flea unless under the influence of a man like Herbert Green.

Clothing In Rags

The clothing he wore when arrested for the first time at 13th and Lombard streets, were shabby, dirty and little better than rags! In his eyes is a continual far-away look, as though he doesn't understand what all the fuss is about.

"Dynamite" Gibson is also the meek type. Small, shifty eyed and dirty. The same description fits "Preacher" Moore to a "T."

Exactly how long the gang has been operating and the number of citizens who have been victims of their acts of crime may never be known. Police can only make a wild guess.

FEB 7 - 1942

Green, Gibson, Moore and Woolyard all have been held to await the action of the Coroner on murder charges, and for court for robbery.

The Coroner is sure to hold them for the Grand Jury, and they will be indicted. It is even within reason to surmise and predict that the Commonwealth will demand the "chair" for Green, but whether the same will hold true in the case of Gibson, Moore and Woolyard is a matter for conjecture.

The immediate vicinity of the cleaning shop was packed and jammed, from the front window all the way across the street. Several times patrolmen on guard in front of the establishment had to drive the crowd from before the window as police carried out reconstruction.

Of the four suspects held in connection with the two slayings, only two were present at the reconstructions, Green and Woolyard. Green played the stellar role in both cases, for he confessed to killing both the aged woman and Miss Cobb.

Pictured by other defendants as a "hard-boiled," merciless character who instilled a chronic fear in the minds and hearts of his cohorts, Green was a different man—a docile, craven individual in the hands of police.

FEB 7 - 1942

Neither Sergeants O'Donnell or Forgy or Detectives Belgrove, Morris or Butler had to repeat a command. When either said "Move," Green moved—and fast!

Suspect Repentant

All during the reconstruction of the murder of Miss Cobb, Green was cooperative and almost genial in a repentant sort of way.

He readily pointed out the spot (still stained with blood) where Miss Cobb fell after he struck her in the back room of the establishment. He willingly described to O'Donnell and Morris the method he used in strangling the victim.

Apparently a meticulous craftsman, Green was adept at strangling victims to prevent even the slightest outcry. And according to his own version of the crime, he strangled Miss Cobb to stop her from screaming and barring his escape.

"Show me where she fell," urged Sergeant O'Donnell. "Right there," answered Green as he pointed to the spot.

FEB 7 - 1942

When the time arrived for him to be photographed by police photographers Green was again the cooperative suspect. The only time he raised an objection was when Gaston DeVigne, TRIBUNE Staff Photographer, photographed him surrounded by the contingent of officers.

"Don't let them take my picture," he begged. "I don't want any publicity."

Talks A Little

Ellsworth Woolyard had nothing to say at the site of the Cobb murder. He did his talking, which wasn't much, at the Catharine street residence.

Since the murder of Mrs. Green on January 3, the house at 2044 Catherine street has become empty of tenants and is being renovated. Paper-hangers and painters were working at the house when police and TRIBUNE representatives arrived there last Friday morning.

Woolyard, according to his statement to police, was Green's unwitting accomplice in the slaying of Mrs. Melinda Green. Woolyard said he did not know the victim had been murdered until he read it in the newspapers and was not present when Green assertedly beat the woman about the head with his fists and then strangled her with a rope similar to the one used to snap the lifecord of Josephine Cobb.

Two of Woolyard's sisters have retained Attorney Robert N. C. Nix to defend their brother when he is brought to trial. They are Mrs. Ida Johnson, of south Quince street, and Mrs. Mary Jackson of the 2400 block of Fitzwater street.

Suffered Mental Relapses

According to a case history of Woolyard given Attorney Nix by the sisters, the suspect has from time to time suffered from mental relapses. He has already spent several months in Byberry and in his condition could have been a docile tool to a man of Green's reputation.

One needs only to look at Green's other alleged partners in crime to understand how he ruled them with such an iron hand. Beside Woolward, also held with Green are Charles "Dynamite" Gibson and John "Preacher" Moore.

FEB 7 - 1942

And while Green himself, is strong, apparently healthy and hale, his cohorts are just the opposite.

Wooyyard is a man of 46 years, but you wouldn't think it to see him in person. He looks 60, if a day.

6924

37k-1942

TENNESSEE

Youth Eludes Mob Bent On Lynching

Pittsburgh Courier

Young Farm Hand Gives Self Up After Evading Mob of Angry Whites—Held in Jail on Assault Charge.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 12—R. T. Dodson, 17, farm worker, was held in Davidson County jail here Friday after he had been brought here by Maury County officers after a group of enraged citizens had sought the youth for more than 24 hours.

The youth is charged with an attack on Mrs. Bruce Jones, elderly white farm woman, at her home in Santa Fe in Maury County, about 40 miles south of Nashville.

FEB 14 1942

A large crowd gathered at the Jones' home soon after the attack was reported to police and officers hastily formed to prevent mob violence to the youth

MOLESTED SISTER

Mrs. Jones, about 50, was reported to be in satisfactory condition at Kings Daughters Hospital in Columbia.

Bloodhounds were used in the search for Dodson and more than 200 citizens were reported searching the first district of Maury County for the boy. He was able to elude the posse.

However, the citizens insisted on searching the house of his sister, Miss Lois Dodson near here, and it was reported that several of the men suggested the house be burned and her brother smoked out.

However, calmer counsel prevailed and the men moved on after they could find no trace of the boy.

FEB 14 1942

Sheriff Kelly Farris, later on a call from the Dodson boy's sister, arranged for him to surrender to the sheriff. Shortly after, Farris rushed the Nashville youth to the Davidson County jail where he will be held until his trial.

JUST WANTED TO KILL WOMAN

According to Sheriff Farris, the youth entered the Jones home and told Mrs. Jones that he was going to kill her.

The sheriff said that the woman offered Dodson all of her money to leave her unharmed.

"However," the sheriff said, "he told her he had no desire for the money—that he only wanted to kill her."

FEB 14 1942

When she entered the room where Dodson was, the youth slugged her, the sheriff continued. She then fled to the bathroom where the youth chased her, and there slashed at her throat, Sheriff Farris said.

After regaining consciousness, Mrs. Jones called for aid and the [illegible] started, culminating in Dodson's arrest and placement in the jail in Nashville.

Meanwhile, a group of Maury citizens called on Circuit Judge W. B. Turner and asked him to call a special grand jury and hold a special trial for the youth.

Judge Turner refused to do this, saying that the regular grand jury would meet on February 23 and could hear the case then.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Tennessee Sheriff Out-Talks Lynchers

OCT 31 1942

PULASKI, Tenn.—Two attempts to lynch a twenty-four-year-old Negro, charged with housebreaking, by a mob estimated at seventy white men, was frustrated on Wednesday when Sheriff Gordon Topp of Gile County talked fast and long.

The mob gathered after reports had been circulated through the town that Carl Potter, arrested by Sheriff Topp on the housebreaking charge had choked a white woman and her daughter in one house he entered.

OCT 31 1942

The sheriff said the men damaged the cell doors by using a cross-tie as a battering ram on the second attempt to enter the jail.

"The men stayed around the jail for an hour," reported the officer. "After dispersing once, they returned and entered the jail before we finally were able to dissuade them from the attempt."

The sheriff was aided in his efforts to disperse the mob by Pulaski's police chief and his force early today before Sheriff Gordon Topp dissuaded them from their attempt to lynch Carl Potter, 24-year-old Negro arrested for housebreaking.

After the Negro was arrested it was reported he had choked a white woman and her daughter while in the house, the sheriff said. He added that the prisoner was in an upperstory of the building and would not have been accessable to the men if they had broken down the cell doors.

Topp was aided by the Pulaski police chief and his officers.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Tenn. Sheriff's Action Prevents Sixth Lynching

OCT 25 1942

Intended Victim Was Charged With House-breaking

OCT 25 1942

PULASKI, Tenn. —(ANP) Aided by the local police chief and some of his officers, Sheriff Gordon Topp succeeded Friday in dissuading a mob estimated numbering 100 from kidnapping and lynching a prisoner accused of the misdemeanor of house breaking.

The angry mob was dispersed only after they had wreaked considerable damage to the jail door by ramming it with crossties.

Sheriff Topp said the mob had come to lynch a prisoner identified as Carl Potter, 24, whom he said he had arrested with the aid of bloodhounds on the charges of a white woman that he had attempted to burglarize her house. Topp said the woman charged Potter had choked her and her daughter when they walked in and surprised him.

OCT 25 1942

"The men stayed around the jail about an hour," stated the sheriff. "After dispersing once, they returned and entered the jail before we finally dissuaded them from the attempt."

Potter was placed in the bullpen on the second floor of the building, said the sheriff, which could not have been reached by the mob, even if it had gained entrance to the mail cells.

Knoxville Tenn. Journal
October 22, 1942

Mob Halted In Effort To Lynch Negro

PULASKI, Tenn., Oct. 21 (AP)—A mob of 50 to 70 men were banging a cross tie against the cell doors of Giles County Jail here

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Sheriff Prevents Lynching

The Informer

OCT 31 1942

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OCT 31 1942

Stayed Hour

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Potter was placed in the bullpen on the second floor of the building, said the sheriff which could not have been reached by the mob even if it had gained entrance to the mail cells.

Sheriff Prevents Lynching

OCT 30 1942

Prisoner Gets Protection in Tennessee Jail

OCT 30 1942

PULASKI, Tenn.—(ANP)— In contrast to what has happened in Mississippi recently, Sheriff Gordon Topp succeeded last Wednesday in dissuading a mob estimated at 100 men from kidnaping and lynching a prisoner accused of the misdemeanor of house-breaking.

The sheriff was aided by the chief of police and some of his officers.

The angry mob was dispersed only after they had wrecked considerable damage to the jail door by ramming it with cross ties.

Sheriff Topp said the mob had come to lynch a prisoner identified as Carl Potter, 24, whom he said had been arrested with the aid of bloodhounds on the charges of a white woman that he had attempted to burglarize her house.

Topp said the woman charged Potter had choked her and her daughter when they walked in and surprised him.

OCT 30 1942

"The men stayed around the jail about an hour," stated the sheriff. "After dispersing once, they returned and entered the jail before we finally disuaded them from the attempt."

Potter was placed in the bullpen on the second floor of the building, said the sheriff which could not have been reached by the mob even if it had gained entrance to the main cells.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

SHERIFF SAVES MAN FROM MOB

OCT 31 1942

OCT 31 1942

PULASKI, Tenn., Oct. 29—An attempt to lynch a colored prisoner here shortly before 1 o'clock Thursday morning was thwarted by Sheriff Gordon Topp of Giles county and other peace officers after the mob, estimated at between 50 and 70 men, had forced an entrance to the jail offices and had battered the doors to the main cells.

The prisoner, Carl Potter, 24, who was employed on the Dixie Long farm near Wales, had been arrested Sunday by Sheriff Topp and charged with housebreaking.

RUMORS CIRCULATE

However, it was reported, that Potter had choked a white woman and her daughter when he entered the house, and there had been rumors that a mob would come for him, according to Sheriff Topp.

Sheriff Topp said the men in the mob were mainly from the section in which Potter worked.

NOV 7 1942

"The mob stayed about the jail for an hour or more," Sheriff Topp said. "After dispersing once, it returned, but we finally dissuaded it from attempting to take Potter."

He said that Police Chief Ira Shelton and his officers assisted deputies in efforts to control the mob and that members of the local company of State Guardsmen also tendered their assistance.

37k-1942

TEXAS

6925

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

POLICE REFUSE TO TELL NAME OF ACCUSED

Hatchet-Murders Charged To Man Captured By Texas Posse

12/6/42

MORTON, Tex.—While a mob of angry whites milled about the Cochran County jail apparently bent upon adding to the already high lynch score of the Lone Star state, police authorities this week refused to divulge their hiding place of a Negro prisoner accused of slaying one white man and seriously wounding another and a woman with a hatchet.

The prisoner was captured by a posse last Sunday.

Immediately after his seizure, the alleged hatchet-man was taken to the county jail, but officers would not say whether he was still there, nor would they reveal his identity.

According to a statement by Sheriff Tom Standefer, the captured man attempted to take his own life with the hatchet as the posse closed in upon him in a cotton field. The prisoner was overpowered and taken before he could do any harm to himself.

The victim of the alleged attack was a former laundry plant operator. Sheriff Standefer identified him as Dan Roberts and said he was killed in the plant by the colored man.

After invading the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Warren, the peace officer said the prisoner struck Mrs. Warren on the head with the hatchet. The man chopped through the Warren door with his weapon added the sheriff.

12/5/42

Roy Lee Culver, 27, a passerby, was the next victim stated the county official when the prisoner encountered him on the street in an attempt to make his escape. Culver's condition was reported to be critical.

The sheriff could offer no motive for the alleged attacks.

6926

37k-1942
Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Negro Policeman Prevents Mobbing

OCT 31 1942

CHARLESTON, W. Va.—Mob law was out-lawed here last week when detectives here prevented a group from seizing a white storekeeper arrested in connection with the shotgun slaying of a Negro, according to acting Police Lt. Dewey Williams.

Williams said that detective sergeants John McKims, veteran Negro officer, and D. T. Layne, were forced to draw their guns to disperse the would-be mobsters which tried to grab Uliano Grayon, white, 60, "suspected of murder."

Grayton, operator of a store near the Washington Manor, a slum clearance project, was arrested after the fatal shooting of Montague Blandon, 32, Negro.

OCT 31 1942

Blandon was a resident of Washington Manor. All of the people in the group which attempted to snatch Grayton were Negroes.

371-1942

6960

'Save Negro' Pleas Swamp Carolina Gov.

Daily Worker
Dec. 9, 1942

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 8 (FP).—Gov. J. M. Broughton of North Carolina is being flooded by requests to pardon William Wellman, a Negro sentenced to be executed Dec. 18 for an alleged attack on a 67-year-old white woman despite proof that he was 400 miles from the scene of the crime.

Dec. 9, 1942

Besides telegrams and letters from labor unions and Negro organizations throughout the nation, Broughton also has received appeals from North Carolina citizens, including Paul Green, noted southern playwright; Harry Koger, representative of the United Cannery Agricultural Packing & Allied Workers (CIO); many clergymen and others.

The governor received a telegraphic request for a pardon Dec. 7 from Chairman George Marshall of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, who pointed out that freedom for Wellman not only would be an act of simple justice but would help to "maintain the confidence of millions of Americans, both white and Negro, in our war effort."

WAS 400 MILES AWAY

The Federation is circularizing its affiliates and unions with a history of the Wellman case and an appeal that they send telegrams and letters to Broughton.

The case against Wellman is based on identification by two women, but his employer's records and the testimony of his fellow workers and foremen prove Wellman was working on a Virginia construction job 400 miles away when the woman was attacked in Statesville, N. C.

The Federation also points out that Wellman was tried without being permitted to call his own witnesses.

Dec. 9, 1942

Wellman was originally scheduled to die Nov. 22 but Broughton granted a postponement until Dec. 18 when demands for further investigation of the case were made by unions and other organizations, including the National Association for Advancement of Colored People.

Unions Ask N.C. Governor To Save Negro

DEC 4 1942

Daily Worker

Commending Governor J. M. Broughton, of North Carolina for his statement declaring that "every effort will be made to do justice in this case," the National Negro Congress has sent a telegram to the chief executive urging him to pardon Wiliam Wellman, a construction worker. Wellman is scheduled to die Dec. 18, for an alleged attack upon a 67-year-old white woman in Statesville, N. C., in 1941, despite a mass of evidence proclaiming his innocence.

Wellman, an employe of a Washington, D.C. construction firm, was extradited to North Carolina last year, tried, found guilty and sentenced to death without a chance to present witnesses. As a result of Court's ruling on the question of defense witnesses, a mass of evidence from the construction company's files, including time records was not introduced at the trial. These records show that Wellman was working for the firm on a construction job in Virginia on Feb. 11, 1941, the date of the alleged attack.

DEC 14 1942

The National Negro Congress's telegram to the Governor said in part: "At a time when Negro and white soldiers are giving their lives in this People's War of freedom, to defend the right of our country to survive as a democratic nation, preservation of the civil liberties of Negro Americans becomes a key factor in building the morale of our people on the Home Front."

The Governor has been deluged with telegrams from scores of trade unions, including the United Electrical Radio, Marine and Machine Workers, United Cannery Workers, Social Service Employes, Fur Floor and Shipping Clerks Union, and leading figures in North Carolina including Paul Green, the eminent playwright, of Chapel Hill. Thousands of North Carolinians including clergymen have also signed pardon petitions to the Governor.

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

Rooftop Gang Draws Terms; Attacked Girl

371

Judge Absolves Harlem in Crime; Gives Culprit Five to Fifteen Years

Dec. 12, 1942

"The people of Harlem condemn lawlessness," declared General Sessions Judge John J. Sullivan, in passing sentence Tuesday on five boys convicted in the roof-top rape and assault of Anne Coleman and her brother Charles, both white, last August.

Absolving Harlem of responsibility for the youths' crime, the able jurist said, "such crimes are the exception and not the rule in Harlem."

Lauding Judge Sullivan for what he termed a tribute to American ideals, democracy and justice, Vernal J. Williams, attorney for one of the convicted youths, said, "I know there are sections of the country where these boys would never have come to trial. Other judges might not have given of their time and patience as freely as you have."

The judge singled out William Brown, 20, for the most scathing remarks. "You're light in stature, but with that diseased mind of yours, I consider you the most vicious," he remarked. The other convicted youth, all under 20, are Earl Long, Thomas Mitchell, Stanley Adams and George Barrett. In sentencing them to Elmira Reformatory, from which they may be paroled after 14 months, Judge Sullivan said he hoped their stay there would rehabilitate them, since he could not see how society would be benefitted by sending them to state prison where they would mingle with hardened criminals.

Brown, only defendant sentenced to prison, was given five to 15 years in Sing Sing.

Chiding the victim, Ann Coleman, for her actions in Harlem and for the haunts she frequented the Judge noted, "the fact remains that Miss Coleman was entitled to be in Harlem without being trapped on a roof and subjected to such frightful indignities."

Peoples Voice
New York N. Y.

Carolinians Fighting to Save Innocent Negro Doomed to Die

Dec. 13 1943

RALEIGH, NC—(FP)—Gov. J. M. Broughton of North Carolina is being flooded by requests to pardon William Wellman, a Negro sentenced to be executed Dec. 18 for an alleged attack on a 67-year-old white woman despite proof that he was 400 miles from the scene of the crime.

Besides telegrams and letters from labor unions and Negro organizations thruout the nation, Broughton also has received appeals from NC citizens, including Paul Green, noted southern playwright; Harry Koger, representative of the United Cannery Agricultural Packing and Allied Workers (CIO); many clergymen and others.

The governor received telegraphic request for a pardon Dec. 7 from Chairman George Marshall of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, who pointed out that freedom for Wellman not only would be an act of simple justice but would help to "maintain the confidence of millions of Americans, both white and Negro, in our war effort."

HISTORY OF CASE:

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The federation also points out that Wellman was tried without being permitted to call his own witnesses.

Wellman was originally scheduled to die Nov. 22, but Broughton granted a postponement until Dec. 18, when demands for further investigation of the case were made by unions and other organizations, including the National Association for Advancement of Colored People

6927

37L-1942

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

5 Of 9 Scottsboro Boys Still Serving Time After 11 Years

MAR 21 1942

March 25 will mark the eleventh year of the world famous Scottsboro case and the 11th year of imprisonment for five of the nine innocent Negro boys who were railroaded in that frameup, the I. L. D. pointed out Monday in an appeal for letters of encouragement and support to be sent to the boys in their prison cells.

"The Scottsboro Boys who are still in jail after eleven years have become the veteran frame-up victims," the I.L.D. said, " and March 25, 1942, will mark exactly eleven years of their incarceration. The world knows they are innocent. The fight for their vindication and release has never for a moment been abandoned. Messages of support from all over the country will cheer them greatly."

The Scottsboro Boys who are still in jail are:

Ozie Powell, serving 20 years in Atmore State Farm, Atmore, Ala.

Andy Wright, serving 99 years in Kilby Prison, Montgomery, Ala.

Charles Weems, serving 75 years in Kilby Prison, Montgomery, Ala.

Clarence Morris, serving life in Kilby prison, Montgomery, Ala.

Haywood Patterson, serving 75 years in Atmore State Farm, Atmore, Ala.

Anniston, Ala. Star
May 3, 1942

CALHOUN GRAND JURY WILL BE ORGANIZED

Numerous Cases On Docket For Investigation This Week

The Calhoun County Grand Jury will be organized Monday morning by Circuit Judge Lamar Field and there are a number of cases expected to be investigated during the grand jury's session.

Included in these cases is the fatal shooting of Carrie Lee Finley by James C. Burks on West Fifteenth Street a few weeks ago. Evidence will be presented to the grand jury concerning alleged attacks upon a white woman and a colored woman by a Negro soldier.

Charles Knowles, who fatally injured James W. Otwell with an ax last Sunday at the Knowles home on Kaplan Row was discharged last week at a preliminary hearing in Police Court. This case may be considered by the grand jury, but no witnesses have been summoned.

Numerous cases involving charges of grand larceny and burglary are on the docket for investigation. Many of these are cases bound over from Anniston's Police Court.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Negro May Die, Says High Court

Reprieved Felon Must Sit In Death Chair Friday

JUN 1 1942

The U. S. Supreme Court, in session in Washington Monday, refused to reconsider its action denying appeal of Frank Johnson, Jefferson County negro, who is now scheduled to die in the electric chair at Kilby Prison Friday of this week, for criminal assault upon a white woman.

Johnson had been slated to die Friday of last week, the Supreme Court having denied his petition for writ of certiorari. On last Thursday, however, Gov. Dixon and Atty. Gen. Lawson were notified by the clerk of the court that Justice Black had granted a stay of execution until Tuesday, June 9.

The Supreme Court was in session again Monday and Atty. Gen. Lawson was advised by the clerk that the court had denied Johnson's application for rehearing. Though the stay granted by Justice Black was until Tuesday, long-standing usage makes Friday the day for legal executions, and Gov. Dixon issued order fixing the date for Friday. Friday is the traditional "hangman's day" and though more modern methods have replaced the noose, executions are invariably set for that day of the week, though Alabama law does not so specify.

ALABAMA
Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

What About the Scottsboro Boys?

An Executive Order by President Roosevelt has freed Earl Browder, secretary of the Communist Party in America, from his cell in Federal penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga. Browder had been convicted of passport fraud and sentenced to a long term.

MAY 30 1942

The agitation for Browder's liberation was whipped up to a major frenzy by the Communists and allied liberals. Negro leaders from the ranks of labor, the ministry, education and other fields joined their voices in the general chorus for freedom for Earl Browder. In fact, colored leaders who could never be accused of belonging to the so-called "pink fringe," lent their support to the Browder cause mainly because it was a challenge to the very principles of Democracy for which our nation is now fighting.

Averting a possibly nasty international complication, what with Russia almost single-handedly pushing Hitler's Nazis back on their haunches, President Roosevelt's Executive Order has saved a lot of faces in light of the present world situation.

Meantime, five Negro boys remain in the reactionary, brutal clutches of the law in Alabama. Let no reader question this description of the law in Alabama or anywhere else in the South. It is more than reactionary and brutal insofar as the Negro and the masses are concerned. It is unbelievable, unexplainable in the light of the supposed onward march of the civilized world. The five Negro boys—the unfortunate remnants of the Scottsboro fiasco upon which the Communist Party, the International Labor Defense, the N. A. A. C. P., the American Civil Liberties Union and other organizations built their causes skyhigh—are still the cause celebre of the queer, indeed, weird case of attitudes this country has developed into what might be termed a science, and nurtures at its bosom in Washington.

APR 30 1942

Until the five—Haywood Patterson, Andy Wright, Ozie Powell, Clarence Norris and Charlie Weems are liberated, the fight against Hitler at home hasn't even been started. The organizations which took a hand in the fight which put four of the Scottsboro Boys—Olen Montgomery, Roy Wright, Eugene Williams and Willie Roberson—on the streets again, did not complete their job as they did in the cases of Tom Mooney and Earl Browder. The public which was allowed to forget the five unfortunates rotting in prison camps and in cells in Alabama, would react to an all-out fight to liberate this quintet as readily as it reacted to the fight for Mooney and Browder if those who fought originally for the Scottsboro Boys are and were sincere in their desire to see justice done.

No battle is won until the last enemy soldier has been captured or killed. No point is won until every counter argument of the opposition is destroyed. The fight for the Scottsboro Boys has not been completed and will never be until Patterson, Wright, Powell, Norris and Weems are free men once more. If Browder's case was pressed to a successful conclusion; if Tom Mooney could be liberated, why not the remaining Scottsboro Boys? From what we can glean from the scant reports coming from the massive, forbidding fortress that is Kilby Prison in Birmingham, Ala., Patterson has been put on a chain gang in a Prison Camp outside Kilby. Wright is in the prison, itself, while Powell, partially paralyzed after being beaten half to death a few years ago by one of the brutal guards, and Norris and Weems are also in Kilby.

MAY 30 1942

The story of the Scottsboro Boys is the story of improved upon opportunities for the organizations that took up the fight and also the story of the future entered upon by the defense attorney, Samuel Leibowitz, who won his way to the bench partly because of the reputation he gained fighting for the Scottsboro defendants. That the five remaining youths are not guilty is an established fact known to everyone apparently except the governor of Alabama. If Browder can be free, why not Patterson, Wright, Powell, Norris and Weems? If the Negro Press wants to see justice done to its own, why not join in a demand for freedom for these boys?

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

2 Scottsboro Negroes Lose Parole Pleas

FEB 20 1942

Board Refuses To Free Clarence Norris And Charlie Weems

FEB 20 1942

Parole applications of two negroes convicted in the notorious "Scottsboro case" were denied Thursday by the State Board of Pardons and Paroles. The case, arising from alleged attacks on two white women aboard a freight train near Scottsboro in 1931, was magnified to the proportions of a "cause celebre."

Those denied paroles Thursday were Clarence Norris, serving a life sentence, and Charlie Weems, with 75 years. The board made no comment in turning down their applications. A total of nine negroes were involved in the case, of whom four were discharged after several years' litigation, while three others are still in prison.

The parole board did its bit Thursday to relieve the keen shortage of farm labor in Alabama, with time to make another crop at hand. A large proportion of the 43 paroles granted went to prisoners who were to go to work on the farms when released. A letter in the board's files from a Blackbelt citizen complained of the acute shortage of farm labor, asserting that not only was the army taking many potential farm workers, but that many of those who remained were manifesting an aversion to work. "I am informed that they released 125 of the WPA last Friday, and that all of them were offered jobs on farms and only three of them accepted," the letter said.

FEB 20 1942

A unique reason why he should be paroled was advanced by John Thomas, alias Sugar Baby, negro convicted in Mobile County in 1935 on two robbery charges and given 20 years in one case and 30 years in the other. A statement in the file from an investigator described Thomas as holding up two Mobilians at the point of a pistol, and said that he was positively identified, but he told an entirely different tale.

His formal application for parole stated: "The writer calls the board's attention to the fact that the majority of the Mobile police force were convicted of false pretense in accepting bribes and extortion from innocent people. He therefore believes that the applicant is victim of the ring which was allowed to operate so extensively before it was quelched by the United States Government."

Thomas's parole application was granted.

FEB 20 1942

While granting 43 paroles Thursday, the board denied 115 applications.

Birmingham, Ala. News
February 20, 1942

Scottsboro Negroes Denied Paroles

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(AP)—Two Negroes sentenced in the much publicized Scottsboro case have been denied paroles by the Alabama Pardon and Parole Board.

The board made no comment in turning down Thursday clemency applications of the two, Clarence Norris, serving life, and Charlie Weems, sentenced to 75 years.

They are two of nine Negroes arrested on charges resulting from alleged attacks on two white women on a freight train near Scottsboro, Ala., in 1931. Three others are still in prison while four of the group were freed after several years of litigation.

Christian Recorder
Philadelphia, Pa.

5 OF 9 SCOTTSBORO BOYS STILL SERVING TIME AFTER 11 YEARS

APR 9 - 1942

March 25 markt the eleventh year of the world famous Scottsboro case and the 11th year of imprisonment for five of the nine innocent Negro boys who were victimized in that frameup, the I. L. D. pointed out Monday in an appeal for letters of encouragement and support to be sent to the boys in their prison cells.

"The Scottsboro Boys who are still in jail after eleven years have become the veteran frame-up victims," the I. L. D. said, "and March 25, 1942, markt exactly eleven years of their incarceration. The world knows they are innocent. The fight for their vindication and release has never for a moment been abandoned. Messages of support from all over the country will cheer them great

APR 9 - 1942

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Ozie Powell, serving 20 years in Atmore State Farm, Atmore, Ala.

Andy Wright, serving 99 years in Kilby Prison, Montgomery, Ala.

Charles Weems, serving 75 years in Kilby Prison, Montgomery, Ala.

Time
Chicago, Illinois

Arrested in Brooklyn, N.Y., for annoying a woman in a subway, one Willie Roberson was discovered to be one of the Scottsboro boys. He was convicted of disorderly conduct, given 90 days in the workhouse.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Scottsboro Boy Is Under Arrest

SPECIAL

One of the famous Scottsboro prisoners was arrested in Brooklyn on the complaint of a white woman, it was revealed Thursday when it was learned that Willie Roberson is now awaiting sentence in the Raymond Street Jail on a disorderly conduct charge. The woman charged that Roberson pawed her in a crowded subway train, then followed her from the DeKalk Avenue Station of the BMT line for a block, demanding intimacies. A passerby called a policeman and Roberson was arrested. Magistrate Cullen presiding in the Bay Ridge Court on arraignment of Roberson learned of his true identity. Roberson first gave his name of Willie Robinson. The magistrate after a hearing held Roberson in $2,500 bail. He found the prisoner guilty of disorderly conduct and remanded him for sentence.

Roberson is scheduled to appear in the Bay Ridge Court Monday for sentence.

Until his arrest, Roberson resided at 316 Quincy st, Brooklyn. He was employed as a doorman at 4520 12th ave. He is married and his wife, he said, was employed in Belle Harbor as a maid in the home of the sister-in-law of County Judge Samuel Liebowitz, who as a practicing lawyer was chief counsel for the nine Scottsboro defendants.

Roberson was defended in the present case by Attorney Solon B. Hanft of 26 Court st, who told a PV reporter that the woman has exaggerated the charge.

EDITORIAL

The report of the arrest of one of the freed Scottsboro boys on complaint of a white woman is particularly unfortunate. Too many people will be quick to point out that his becoming involved in a scrape similar to that around which the famous Alabama case centered indicates that he may not have been as innocent then as was insisted during the trials.

We can hold no brief for Roberson in his present pickle. We can, and do hope, however, that public judgment of him will be influenced only by the current offense of which he has been found guilty—not by the memories of the past.

This is important. Not for Willie Roberson—who really doesn't matter so much as an individual—but for the principles of true democracy and justice which matter very much to all people.—STB

Age-Herald.
Birmingham, Ala.

APPEAL HEARING IN ATTACK CASE SET

OCT 13 1942

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Oct. 12—(AP)—The case of Frank Johnson, Bessemer Negro under death sentence for criminal attack, has been set for hearing before the U. S. Court of Appeals here Oct. 19.

Johnson's scheduled execution has been stayed several times by both federal and state courts. Gov. Dixon issued an order July 2 staying execution pending completion of Federal Court action.

OCT 13 1942

Convicted originally in Jefferson Circuit Court in April, 1941, on charges of attacking a young Bessemer matron, Johnson appealed on grounds Negroes were excluded from the jury, and that his alleged confession was forced.

37L-1942
The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

6929

Negro Minister Hits Press for Attempt to Smear Scottsboro Case

1942

By Eugene Gordon

Rev. Thomas S. Harten, prominent Negro minister and civic leader of Brooklyn, said yesterday that "Alabama lynchers wouldn't trade a million dollars for the slanderous remarks of certain New York newspapers about Willie Roberson, one of the framed Scottsboro boys, convicted recently in the Bay Ridge Court on a "disorderly conduct" charge.

Willie Roberson was among the nine boys framed at Scottsboro, Ala., 11 years ago. He was arrested one night two weeks ago, shortly after he left a BMT subway train in Brooklyn, charged with "annoying" Miss Pauline Freedman, of 971 Herkimer St. Roberson pleaded "not guilty" to the charge. Until he admitted before Magistrate Thomas H. Cullen the next day that he was a "Scottsboro Boy" the newspapers, Rev. Harten said, "gave the case no more attention than it deserved."

"I know Willie quite well, for I have let him stay in my home," the minister said. "Most of the papers misrepresented the case, trying desperately to link it up with the old and discredited Scottsboro case. But it just won't go. He is an honest and trustworthy young man."

Rev. Harten, who was among the first citizens to go to the aid of the nine Negro youths when they were arrested and charged with rape in March, 1931, resented, he declared, newspaper attempts to revive the "outrageous charge of rape" in the original Scottsboro case, "a charge long ago proved to be a frame-up." He resented it, he said, not only because it did a grave injustice to the youth but tended, "most unfortunately, at this time," to reflect on the good name of the Negro people, whose sole aim is to win [illegible] Fascism."

The youth is being held in $2,500 bail. He will come up in the Bay Ridge Court Monday for sentence.

Five young men remain in the Alabama prison from the "notorious frameup," and, according to Rev. Harten, he and others working to free them will try to prevent any attempt to interfere with the drive for their freedom.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

As the Crow Flies

By W. E. B. DU BOIS

SINGAPORE has fallen but Sikeston, Missouri, still stands. FEB 28 1942

Sojourner Truth will rise from the dead when white folk steal her Detroit homes.



Dr. Du Bois

We need Negro blood in this war but we are not sure just where.

Europe says that Asia will fight to maintain "white prestige." We advise Europe to check on that rumor.

Book-of-the-Year Club

Every time I have mentioned the Negro Book-of-the-Year Club in the last five years I have received increasing encouragement. Yesterday R. C. Barbour, editor of the National Baptist Voice, official organ of the National Baptist Convention, Incorporated, came into my office and offered the clerical facilities of his office and the backing of his colleagues for pushing this idea, which he deemed a matter of primary importance. This morning Aaron Smith, of New York City, writes me: "In reading your column in the issue of Saturday, February 7, 1942, your article struck me as being the thing we have needed for a long time, a buying black public of black literature for which I am very much in favor. . . . I wish to say that if you and your Dr. friend ever start such a movement, please enroll me as a member who pledges himself to buy at least one book a year written by some black man." FEB 28 1942

As I receive encouragement I am going to push the development of this idea until something tangible results, but I want to go slowly and surely through these dark days of war.

Another Scottsboro Case

Not much publicity, even in the colored press, has been given to the astonishing case of Festus Coleman in California. The story as sent to me is as follows:

"Festus Lewis Coleman is a young San Francisco Negro, married and the father of two small children. One night last April, he was walking through Golden Gate Park and came upon a U. S. Army lieutenant and a seventeen-year-old white girl on a blanket in a compromising position. The disturbance angered the officer and a fight ensued. Coleman was getting the better of the conflict until another U. S. Army lieutenant, in a car nearby with another girl, came to the rescue of his friend. Together they beat Coleman severely, took him to the nearest police station and had him booked for robbery and rape. They charged he robbed the officer and raped his girl companion. FEB 28 1942

Coleman was tried before a judge notorious for his bias against Negroes, and an all-white jury, selected in forty-five minutes. No Negroes were allowed in court during the trial, not even members of the defendant's family. In one day and a half, Coleman was convicted and sentenced for a term of sixty-five years in San Quentin Prison. While the plaintiffs made the claim, no evidence was produced to show that the defendant was armed. There was much implied evidence, however, to show that he was not. No physician's statement was presented to show that the girl had been examined, in spite of the claim that she was taken to an emergency hospital station and examined by a woman doctor. It is significant that the plaintiffs could not name the hospital nor give the name of the examining physician. A careful reading of the transcript does not reveal how an unarmed Negro could rob an armed white officer and rape his girl companion in his presence. Because two U. S. Army officers are involved, the Coleman Case, if allowed to stand, will go down in history as worse, by far, than the celebrated Scottsboro Cases." FEB 28 1942

Sister Engages Lawyer

A white woman of San Jose, California, has sent me these facts and in addition tells of the work of a local defense committee. A statement by the publicity director says: "Festus Coleman was tried in the court of Judge George J. Steiger. The lieutenant found with the girl on the blanket in the park was Lt. Charles Griffith. The brother lieutenant, in the parked car, was Lt. Robinson.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

CALIFORNIA



By WILLIAM F. CUMMINGS

SEP 26 1942

SAN FRANCISCO'S COLEMAN CASE is the case of a Negro who represents 15 million of his kind, a case which makes a mockery of the word democracy, a case for all decent, fair-minded and democratic people of all races, a national and international case.

THE CASE IS INTERNATIONAL,

- because it has violated the *Four Freedoms* agreed upon by the Allied Nations,
- because it is disrupting a segment of the Allied Nations in its all-out war effort,
- because Coleman was framed because of his race and color,
- because one-half of one billion non-white races might be influenced by our undemocratic practices and decide that "the white man can't be trusted."
- because Dakar is a focal point in Africa where millions of Africans live and where hitler is concentrating his butchers,
- because China is a vital point, India too, and Mexico and South America might also be taught that the white man can't be trusted to respect the rights of other races.

We aren't living in the days of *laissez faire* anymore. The world is informed of our doings, be they good or evil. And the Coleman case is an international evil.

The present war is an international conflict between two philosophies. hitler has a racial supremacy theory and, sad as it is to say, the railroading of Coleman because of his race is adding strength and support to "aryan supremacy." But we are for the *Four Freedoms*.

How then can we Negro Americans be *free* from *fear* when every mirror tells us that we are black and some whites tell us that because of that we must live in fear—fear of being framed, jimcrowed and lynched? We are born in fear, we live in fear, and we die in fear. So, too, with the Indians, the Africans and all subject races. The international question is, therefore, do the *Four Freedoms* apply to non-white races?

COLEMAN A NATIONAL CASE.

SEP 26 1942

During time of war, morale is a *sine qua non*. The enemy strikes at its foe's weakest point. To be armed with guns in a disunited country with low morale is equivalent to no defense against the enemy. In fact, it represents a go signal for him. An enemy within may be worth many without.

This is not an appeal to save the life of one man—Coleman, a Negro—but an appeal to save our country, of which the Negro is an integral part; in freeing Coleman, we are freeing our country from the wanton injustice that weakens our morale and strengthens the enemy. Thus the Coleman case represents a national problem—a problem of building or weakening the nation's morale.

COLEMAN CASE A CALIFORNIA STATE PROBLEM.

Since this case originated in the State of California, in the City of San Francisco, the state executives can raise our necessary war-time morale by intervening immediately, investigating thoroughly, and giving justice to Coleman and his unhappy family.

We therefore call upon the governor of the State of California to continue his progressive win-the-war policy by acquainting himself with the facts in this infamous victimization of the Negro people personified by the Coleman case, and pardoning Coleman.

We are also calling upon Attorney General Warren, the Republican candidate for governor, to reconsider his previous stand in this case and to play his rightful role in strengthening our state and national unity and morale.

SEP 26 1942

COLEMAN DEFENSE CONFERENCE OCTOBER 4.

It is a pity even to have to think about such a conference during so critical a period as this. But in the words of Crabbe,

"Come now again, thy woes impart,
Tell all thy sorrows, all thy sin;
We cannot heal the throbbing heart,
Till we discern the wounds within."

Let it not be necessary to have a "Conference"; let it be a Victory rally with a pardon granted to Festus Coleman. But if we must have this Conference, let it tell the axis enemies without and their stooges within that progressive Americans are determined to frustrate their conniving and disruptive tactics of divide and conquer. Nor are we worried by their using our fight for democracy within as a basis for their propaganda.

"When a fight begins within himself a man is *worth* something," said Browning, and he's right.

"I count him braver who overcomes his desires than him who conquers his enemies; for the hardest victory is the victory over ourselves," said Aristole.

SEP 26 1942

Thus, if the Coleman Defense Conference must be, let it be for victory over ourselves, over inhuman injustices, thereby strengthening our spirit and our determination, imperative to our aim of saving this chaotic world from total destruction.

I'm sure that the sponsors of this conference would agree that it should not be held, that the necessary mechanics of organizing such a conference will take away much time and energy from our immediate duties in mobilizing to meet the enemy, that we ought to buy defense bonds with the funds that will be used for the conference. All this and more is true.

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CALIFORNIA

6932

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

Claim Persecution in California Rape Conviction

AUG 29 1942

AUG 29 1942

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—Efforts to secure a pardon for Festus L. Coleman, young San Francisco man now serving 65 years in the San Quentin prison for "rape and robbery," are being intensified, the Rev. H. T. S. Johnson, of Oakland, chairman of the Coleman Defense Committee, said this week.

Coleman was accused of robbing an Army officer and raping his "17-year-old girl," as the two sat talking on "a blanket" in a wooded area of a park April 11, 1941. The Coleman Defense Committee has branded his conviction as a Northern imitation of "jim crow justice."

Everything about the case was shrouded in the deepest secrecy, it was reported. Even relatives of Coleman were barred from the courtroom during his "trial."

AUG 29 1942

Wrong Time to Happen Along

Coleman's story of the incident was that the officer and the girl were making love and he just happened along. His "happening along" was resented by the officer, who with a companion officer, also in "the woods with a girl," attacked Coleman, the latter's story continues.

During his trial, it is said, Coleman was subject to much abuse by the prosecution. It is also alleged that the Judge offered to drop the charge of rape if he would submit a plea of guilty of robb

AUG 29 1942

An appeal has been denied by the California District Court of Appeals. It is significant, however, that Judge Ray Peters said, in a dissenting opinion, that he believed the prosecution to have been guilty of "error of the most prejudicial character."

Individuals and Organizations Aid Coleman

He wrote: "As important as it is to society to see that those guilty of criminal activity should be punished, it is far more important to society as a whole that the fundamental principle that every defendant is entitled to a fair trial should be preservd.

AUG 29 1942

Such prominent individuals as Paul Robeson, Dr. Max Yergan, the Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Jr., Augustus F. Hawkins, Mervyn Rathborne, William Blake, Mrs. Fay Allen, Katherine Dunham, Thomas L. Griffith, Jr., Prof. Albert Guerard, Clarence Muse and many others have come to Coleman's defense.

Organizations lending moral and financial support include the NAACP, in San Francisco, Los Angels, San Jose, and Fresno; the National Maritime Union, the International Warehousemen's Union, the National Negro Congress, and the San Francisco Industrial Union Council.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Convict Soldier of Attacking White Girl, 8

HARTFORD, Conn.—A State prison sentence of from two to ten years was imposed upon Pvt. Moses Cothron, 24, army recruit from Mt. Pleasant, Tenn., who was convicted in Superior Court this week on a charge of criminal assault upon an 8-year-old white girl.

MAY 2 - 1942

The alleged attack occurred in an alleyway off Charles Street on the night of March 17. Private Cothron was attached to a coast artillery anti-aircraft detail stationed in this vicinity on domestic guard duty. Judge Kenneth Wynne pronounced sentence.

The soldier was represented by Public Defender Reinhart L. Gideon. In a lengthy statement to the court, Private Cothron pleaded innocence, contending that he was a victim of mistaken identity. He admitted being in the neighborhood in which the attack occurred but persistently denied guilt.

MAY 2 - 1942

He was arrested in that neighborhood and identified by the young white girl.

6934

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D.C.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

New Assaults Bring Added Police Patrols

FEB 8 - 1942

Extraordinary details of policemen to protect night workers homeward bound during early-morning hours were promised last night by Maj. Edward J. Kelly, superintendent of police, following the rape of two women early yesterday.

The police chief said he is going to place every available man on duty in the early morning hours, cruising in automobiles and patrolling on foot to safeguard women who must be on the streets after midnight.

Ten other assaults on women in the early morning hours, including one rape, had been reported to police in the past three weeks, it was revealed yesterday. Yesterday's attacks brought the total to 12.

First of the early-morning rapes yesterday occurred at 2:30 a. m. when a 24-year-old doughnut company employe was attacked by a Negro in the 600 block L Street Northwest.

She told police that she was walking toward her home when she was grabbed about the throat from behind.

FEB 8 - 1942

"If you open your mouth I'll kill you," she quoted her attacker.

He grasped her about the throat, nearly choking her, she said, and dragged her to a vacant lot beside 612 L Street Northwest, where he ravished her. He fled through Goats Alley on foot.

The woman's screams attracted Bernard Love, Negro, of 1107 Fifth Street Northwest, who took the woman to the Second Precinct Police Station. She later was given first aid at Gallinger Hospital.

Less than three hours later, shortly before dawn, a 32-year-old waitress was seized from behind by a Negro while she was standing on a trolley loading platform at Third and H Streets Northeast. She said, according to police, that her assailant dragged her nearly 100 yards to a driveway in the 700 block Third Street Northeast, where she was raped.

FEB 8 - 1942

She was on her way to a restaurant in the Southwest where she was employed and had just left her home.

Both women were hysterical and near collapse when they were taken to the hospital.

Belief that both women were attacked by the same man was expressed by investigators last night. The women each said her assailant was dark-skinned with a "round" face. The first woman, however, stated the man who attacked her had a small mustache. The other's assailant was said to be clean shaven.

FEB 8 - 1942

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

U. S. Economist Indicted in Rape Of Federal Girl

The District Grand Jury yesterday indicted J. Franklin Huber, 24-year-old "junior business economist" in the Office of Price Administration, on a charge of raping a stenographer, also of the OPA, in Rock Creek Park, May 31.

JUN 16 1942

Huber, a former University of Iowa student, is said to have attacked the 20-year-old Government worker after they had gone to the park from a restaurant. The alleged victim testified at Huber's arraignment June 2 that he had offered her several drinks, which she refused. Huber lives at 5128 North Capitol Street.

Also indicted for rape was Isaiah Brooks, 33-year-old Negro of unknown address, who is charged with criminally attacking a 42-year-old woman in her bedroom.

JUN 16 1942

A total of [illegible] indictments were returned yesterday. The others are:

Unauthorized use of an automobile, John Beeks, Cola L. Smith, Fred J. Hurd, jr., Jesse F. Owens, Edward L. Schools, jr., and Harvey N. Byrd, whose indictment included also a charge of stealing automobile accessories; grand larceny, William H. Skinker, Harold C. Caspers, Nevitt Shackleford, Robert Dearing, Tyler P. Burdett and James W. Torrence.

Housebreaking and larceny, Charles Goins, Robert J. Condon, Maurice Johnson, Howard C. Moore, Joseph H. Davidson, Moses Matthews, Melvin Curry, Herman C. Davis and James Wallace; robbery, William Simpson, Roland Belton, Joseph C. Plazza, James Wallace, Mary E. Maynard, St. Clair Mitchell, Isaac Kee and J[illegible] Brown; assault with intent to kill, J[illegible] Russell McGregor.

Assault with intent to commit [illegible]ry, Roddy W. Childress, Isaac Kee, J[illegible] Brown, James P. Coleman, Henry W. McG[illegible]m and Oliver Ogden; assault with a dangerous weapon, Frank Wright, Gladys Smith, John Austin, George R. McGregor and Oliver Ogden; assault with intent to commit carnal knowledge, Charles Shanklin; assault with intent to commit rape and robbery, Andrew J. Jackson.

False pretenses, Andrew H. Leapley; forgery and uttering, Robert A. Moore and Andrew H. Leapley; violation of the Harrison Narcotic Act and the Narcotic Drugs Import and Export Act, Charles Hunter and Bernard A. Brown; violation of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act, George Kopacks, Albert Karvonen and Lester Blackwell.

JUN 16 1942

Forgery and passing of Government checks, Roy Aams; carnal knowledge, James L. Proctor and James W. Robinson; second degree murder, Leonard F. Drew.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Assault Suspect Held Under $20,000 Bond

John B. Robinson, 25-year-old Negro and former employe of the Chestnut Farms Dairy, was held for grand jury action under $20,000 bond by United States Commissioner Needham C. Turnage yesterday on a charge of assaulting and attempting to rape a 20-year-old WPB stenographer last week.

Robinson was acquitted about three months ago of a charge that he was the mysterious "gas burglar" who terrorized Northeast Washington last winter by breaking into several apartments and turning on the gas jets after robbing the occupants.

Detective Sergt. Roy E. Blick, of the Special Investigating Squad, said at the hearing in Turnage's office that Robinson was arrested Saturday in Newark. Clues as to his identity, the officer said, were a pair of shoes, a hat, and a coat left behind in the girl's room.

Blick also produced a pay check stub found in the coat pocket. Tracing it to the Chestnut Farms Dairy, he learned that Robinson had not reported for work July 16, the night of the crime.

The alleged victim said she could not positively identify Robinson as her assailant, but police obtained a palm print in the room that coincided with that of Robinson.

The girl told of waking about 4 a. m. and finding a man in her bed who tried to subdue her by scratching and striking her. She picked up a small fan from a table near the bed, she said, and pushed it into the attacker's face. He fled, with the girl brandishing a chair at his heels. When he escaped through a window and started down one of the posts supporting the porch, she hurled the chair at him.

Police later followed a trail of blood that led for more than a block from the house.

Blick told Turnage that when Robinson was arrested his head was bandaged. He said that Robinson said he had received the injuries in an argument in New York's Harlem section.

JUL 23 1942

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Nabbed On Charge Of White Girl

WASHINGTON, D. C. James B. Robinson, 25, former employe of a local dairy, was held under $20,000 bail here last week after his return from Newark, N. J., to face a charge of attempted assault on a young government clerk in her room.

The assailant in the attack was driven off by the girl when she pushed a whirling electric fan in his face and then hit him with it. He left behind him clothes containing letters bearing the name Robinson.

The man, picked up in Newark, had a face cut and another cut in the back of the head. These, police said, he claimed were incurred in a fight at Newark. The clothes found in the girl's room had been stolen from his home, police said the man told them.

The name and general descriptions of the accused man, according to police, are the same as that of a man indicted and acquitted of house-breaking and assault with intent to [illegible] in the northeast section of the city last January.

JUL 25 1942

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Man Arrested In Two Assaults, Housebreakings

AUG 20 1942

AUG 20 1942

Police today had placed two charges each of housebreaking and assault against James Nathaniel Johnson, 26-year-old Negro of 22 East Street Southeast. Two women identified him as their would-be assailant, police said.

A 35-year-old married woman, who lives in the Northeast section, told officers Johnson was the man who broke into her home early Saturday morning, attempted to assault her but was forced to flee when she called for help.

A similar story was told by a 17-year-old girl who said Johnson entered her home by removing a screen window. She said he tried to stifle her screams, but that she broke free. The Negro fled, she said.

AUG 20 1942

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D.C.

6935

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Assault Suspect Jailed, Held for Grand Jury Action

JAN 9 - 1942

Charged with the rape of a Negro woman and the rape, robbery and assault with intent to kill of a 31-year-old Navy Department employe, William B. Mayes, Negro, 27, of 2117 N Street Northwest, was lodged at the District Jail last night to await grand jury action.

He was denied bail yesterday when arraigned before Police Court Judge Hobart Newman.

Arraigned only in the case of the criminal attack on the Negro woman, which occured December 21, the suspect pleaded not guilty and waived preliminary hearing. Authorities said the other charges will be presented to the grand jury.

Both women were attacked in an alley on Twenty-first Street Northwest, between L and M Streets. The Navy Department stenographer was accosted New Year's morning, struck over the head with a brick, assaulted and robbed.

JAN 9 - 1942

She is still confined to Emergency Hospital.

371-1942

FLORIDA

6936

Birmingham Post
Birmingham, Alabama

Victim's Brother Kills Girl's Negro Assailant

SEP 1 1942

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Sept. 1.—A Negro, who tried to attack a white woman and failing to succeed raped her 17-year-old daughter, was shot and killed by the girl's brother here today.

SEP 1 1942

The Negro, identified as Calvin Field, 30, of Jacksonville, entered the house where the women lived, chased the girl outside, seized her and dragged her into a woods where he tore off her clothes and raped her.

The brother ran into a nearby dwelling, borrowed a shotgun and killed Field.

SEP 1 1942

The case was given a hearing before Peace Justice T. O. Holmes.

Attack Case Takes Weird Turn As Prosecutrix Is Jailed On Perjury Charge; Three Others Face Contempt Counts

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

By LINT BURKETT

A thrill-packed trial of Sylvester Andrews, Negro, charged with rape, was suspended yesterday afternoon until today with:

The prosecuting witness in jail charged with perjury.

Three women relatives of Andrews in jail charged contempt of court.

Daisy Lee Churchwell, former counsel for Andrews, explaining to Judge A. M. Anderson in superior court that he had gone to the home of the prosecutrix yesterday to advise her to come into court with a lawyer.

ATTORNEY WITHDRAWS

J Millard Jackson, appointed counsel in the case withdrawing.

The prosecuting witness refuting her sworn identification of Andrews as her attacker.

The introduction of a second Negro into the attack case.

Permission from the presiding judge for the state to introduce the testimony of three white women who Andrews is accused of attempting to rape.

All of this action took place after the noon recess. Up until that time the court had been concerned with the routine procedure of selecting a jury and listening to the opening statement of the prosecution. Solicitor General Charles H. Garrett gave notice in his statement that he would introduce the evidence of the three attempted rapes on white women and that set off the first fireworks.

Jackson, who had been appointed to act as associate counsel with Miss Alene Harden, objected to the move and after some argument, in which Miss Harden said that she did not object, Judge Anderson allowed the state to proceed as planned.

STORY OF CRIME

The first witness called was the Negro woman who claimed she had been attacked. She told the story of the assault by two Negro men, one attacking her while the other choked her in turn, in the park adjacent to Price Free Library on the night of May 7.

She told of seeing S. P. Minchew, who lived at the boarding house where she worked coming on the scene after the men had gone and of his helping her to summon police.

She then told of going into the jail and selecting Andrews as one of her attackers from a line-up of six men. She also testified that Andrews' clothing placed in evidence by the state was worn by one of her assailants.

This testimony she substantiated on cross examination by Miss Harden.

Then the state called Minchew who bore out the girl's statement concerning his finding her in the park in a dishevelled condition and sobbing. She had lost her spectacles and was searching for them when he arrived on the scene.

The defense was unable to shake Minchew's statement to any noticeable extent. He also had testified that after he found the girl he had caught a Negro man whom he believed to have been one of the assailants.

After the examination of Minchew there was a short recess at which time Jackson went into the office of Judge Anderson and announced that despite the fact that he had been appointed by the court, he felt that he must withdraw from the case.

Coming out of the office he said that the judge had granted permission after Miss Harden had said she had no objections.

At this time the court was again called into session and Miss Harden exploded her first bombshell. Solicitor Garrett had called for another state's witness, when she rose and asked that the prosecuting witness be recalled to the stand.

"I have no objection, Your Honor, although I do not think this the time to do it," the solicitor interposed.

Miss Harden explained that it would probably expedite the case if done.

When the prosecutrix was recalled and took the stand she was asked by Miss Harden:

"Is Sylvester Andrews the man who attacked you?"

"I do not know."

Solicitor Garrett then took over the examination:

Q. "Did you tell Miss Harden that Sylvester was not the right one?"

A. "I do not know."

Q. "Have you been talking to any of those women out there in the hall?"

A. "Yes, his sisters and his mother-in-law. His sisters said he is not the right man."

Q. "When did you talk to his sisters?"

A. "All since the trial began. Also on the day I was before the grand jury. Since then they have come out to my house to see me several times but most of the time I was out. Also Sylvester's mother-in-law came out to my house."

Q. "What has happened to you since 2:30? Who have you been talking to?"

A. "Nobody, I just don't feel that he was the one."

At this point Miss Harden rose and had Andrews stand close to the witness stand. She then asked the girl if she could identify him.

"I don't know."

OFFICERS QUESTIONED

Solicitor Garrett then asked for a recess and retired to his office where he spent 45 minutes or an hour questioning officers who had been out in the corridor waiting their turn to testify in the case.

It was after questioning them that he ordered the arrest of the prosecutrix and Gertrude Underwood, Clara Fudge and Hattie Lou Flanders, all Negresses, on charges of contempt of court. Two of the women are related to Andrews.

Judge Anderson then called court back in session and announced that he intended suspending the case until 9:30 today. At this point Miss Harden rose and announced that she had been informed that Daisy Lee Churchwell, who had originally been listed as attorney for Andrews, but had left the case, had gone out to the home of the prosecutrix yesterday and talked to her.

Solicitor Garrett immediately asked the court what the attorney who no longer was in the case could be doing at the woman's home?

Before any answer could be made Churchwell, who was in court, said he was willing to answer any questions.

Miss Harden said that Churchwell had written her a peculiar letter and turned to Solicitor Garrett and Judge Anderson and asked for their protection.

EXPLAINS VISIT

After being asked several times by Judge Anderson if he wanted to explain what he was doing at the home of the prosecutrix, Churchwell said that he had originally been interested in the case and while so employed had occasion to question the prosecutrix and at that time she expressed doubts as to the identity of her assailant. He said, however, that he had been convinced that she had been raped.

He said that she asked him several times what she was to do and each time he said that he advised her that he was interested only in the truth.

He then explained that he had gone to her home again on Sunday and advised her to come into court with a lawyer and stick strictly to the lawyer's advice in answering questions.

At the conclusion of this explanation the judge called the jury back, informed them he would be compelled to hold them overnight, and then recessed court until today at 9:30 a.m.

Miss Hardin Is Given Suspended Jail Term

A 20-day jail sentence was imposed on Miss Alene Hardin, Macon woman lawyer, for contempt of court, but then suspended by Judge A. M. Anderson in Bibb superior court Wednesday afternoon.

The sentence was imposed when Miss Hardin refused to enter into an agreement with the court to retire from the practice of law as a person temperamentally or physically unsuited for such a profession.

It was suspended by Judge Anderson with the statement that "the court is trying to save you from yourself, after talking with leading members of the bar and leading citizens."

PLANS APPEAL

Miss Hardin informed The Telegraph late yesterday that she would appeal Judge Anderson's verdict. She said that, within the 20 days allowed by law, she would prepare an appeal to the supreme court of Georgia.

Miss Hardin recently was found guilty of contempt of court in allegedly coercing the Negro prosecutrix to change her identification of Sylvester Andrews, Negro, as her attacker.

"Through the kindness of my heart," the judge said, "I had rather believe that you acted because of maladjustment of temperament, defect in personality, excitement or nervous condition caused by your hardships rather than that you deliberately attempted to intimidate a witness. The offense itself deserved the maximum jail punishment and disbarment. I would not have the slightest hesitancy about what to do to a responsible member of the bar. It was not in my power to disbar you, and I did not try to do so. I did give you an opportunity to retire from a profession for which leading attorneys and citizens felt you were not suited. After hearing from these people for whom I have a profound respect, I am suspending sentence with the provision that it may be imposed at the discretion of the court at any time it thinks advisable.

Miss Hardin had advised Miss Hardin to retire from law practice, as she was unsuited for it.

Earl Butler, Miss Hardin's attorney, appealed to the court to allow the woman to "spend the short time left her by a merciful God in peace." He said he thought it would not be easy to take away from her the right to earn an honest living, and added that practicing law was the only way she had to do this according to his information.

Solicitor Charles Garrett said

WITNESSES CALLED

Several persons told the court they felt sentence should be suspended, stating a jail sentence in this particular case would not have the desired effect. Among those testifying were Bruce Jones, R. L. Anderson Sr., Judge Walter Stevens, Sheriff Hicks, and D. Lee Churchwell.

6938

371-1942

GEORGIA

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Bibb Officers Arrest Negro After Attack

APR 22 1942

County officers arrested a Negro man yesterday on a charge of attempt to rape a Negro woman and were trying last night to link him with attacks on four or five other Negro women a few weeks ago when three white women were assaulted.

Deputies C. R. Stokes and Walter Waldron jailed a 36-year-old Negro listed as Roosevelt Rhone. They said he attempted to rape a young Negro woman on the Juliette road in Bibb county.

The officers revealed that at the time a Negro attacked two Macon white women and attempted to attack a third a few weeks ago, a Negro assaulted four or five Negro women. They planned to confront Rhone with some of the Negro victims to see if they could identify him. The officers did not express an opinion as to whether the same Negro was suspected of attacking the white and colored women.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Negro Accused By Woman Faces Trial in Lumpkin

APR 20 1942

LUMPKIN, April 18 — Trial of Shep Williams, Negro, charged with attempted assault upon a Stewart county white woman, is scheduled to be held during the session of superior court opening here Monday before Judge W. M. Harper of Americus.

Officers directed by Sheriff S. W. Worthington arrested Williams shortly after the woman was stripped of a quantity of her clothing and injured so severely she required treatment at a local hospital. The sheriff said Williams was released from an institution for the insane a short while ago.

Macon, Ga., News
May 23, 1942

Let Justice Be Speedy

Sheriff's officers lost no time in apprehending the Negro positively identified by a 45-year old white woman as her assailant.

Thus is written another chapter in the annals of swift crime detection by Bibb county law officers.

Sheriff Hicks and his staff of officers have time and again proven themselves competent of dealing with criminals of every nature. So excellent, in fact, is their record that there remains no outstanding unsolved crime of any consequence on the county docket.

In speedily making the arrest of this latest criminal, they have set an example which municipal officers, struggling with unsolved assaults attempts in recent weeks, are apparently finding hard to emulate.

Be that as it may, Macon News hopes that justice will be speedily carried out in the present case. Only by demonstrating the fact that retribution is inevitable may we expect to keep from having more of these disgraceful crimes.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
May 24, 1942

Run Down the Culprits

Sheriff James R. Hicks Jr. and his deputies have shown commendable diligence and skill in making an arrest in the first of the series of attacks on women which was made outside the city limits. On the other hand, the failure of the city police to solve any one of the five similar crimes which have taken place inside the city limits calls for action of some kind. If there are not enough policemen in Macon to protect our citizens at all hours of the day and night then the force should be increased.

Solicitor General Garrett has given assurance that the Negro now under arrest will be given a speedy trial. The swiftness and certainty of punishment constitute the strongest deterrents to crime.

It goes without saying that in a crime of such gravity, carrying the death penalty, identification should be so complete that there could be no doubt whatever of the guilt of the accused. Passion and prejudice should not be allowed to bring about a miscarriage of justice, thus adding tragedy to tragedy. Nothing is gained by punishing the innocent. The purpose of the law is to eliminate the guilty.

On the whole, the Negroes in Macon are decent and law-abiding. We have no doubt that the better element of that race deplores recent events as deeply as do their white friends.

That better element can, and undoubtedly will, render a valuable service by co-operating in the effort to discover the guilty members of their race and hand them over to justice.

It would be to the best interest of all concerned.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Second Negro Held in Probe Of Assaults

MAY 24 1942

The closely guarded portals of Bibb county jail yesterday opened to receive a second suspect in the lumberyard attack on a 45-year-old woman textile worker, one of six victims in a wave of criminal assaults that has scourged the city in recent weeks.

The 27-year-old Negro, arrested in a Tybee residence by Deputy Sheriff Oscar Harris, was taken yesterday before the woman victim, who was attacked by two Negroes late Tuesday after being hurled to the ground and choked into insensibility on Boundary street between the T. and T. Packing plant and the Old Massie-Felton lumberyard in South Macon.

MAY 24 1942

STICKS TO STATEMENT

Deputy Sheriff Rock Robertson said that the woman stuck to her original statement that she could not positively identify the second Negro who attacked her, and said she did "not want to do anything hastily." She professed, however, to noting points of resemblance between the latest suspect and the Negro who was with another whom she has positively identified as J. B. Holmes, 22, now being held in county jail.

The latest suspect was to be grilled early this morning regarding circumstances of the lumberyard attack, said Deputy Harris.

MAY 24 1942

Rare were the moments that city detectives were spending at headquarters last night. Out into the by-ways they had thrown their net in an effort to make the representation that "we now have a definite break in the rape cases and believe we will reach a complete solution within a few hours."

MAY 24 1942

MILLER TAKES COMMAND

Police Chief Robert L. Miller had taken personal command of the hunt and added nothing to the above statement. Focal point of detective efforts was the attack staged by a Negro who was frightened away at First and Orange streets when a Telegraph newsboy came on the scene and gave chase at 6 o'clock Wednesday morning.

In city jail was a Negro who had been at least partially identified by the Orange street attack victim. He was arrested in a Third street store by Detectives Pat Chambless and J. R. Branan. It was not revealed whether six reported witnesses of the attack had identified him, but it was reliably reported that the woman victim had.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Bibb Offers $500 Reward For Attacker

MAY 22 1942

Grand Jury Demands Boost in Officers

A 50 per cent increase in the number of law enforcement officers and the immediate concentration of every available man on the investigation of the series of rape cases was demanded yesterday by the Bibb county grand jury.

The Bibb Manufacturing Company last night posted a $500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the rapist or rapists. Scott Russell, president of the company, declared that the entire community was menaced as long as he or they remained at large. The reward was offered in an effort to develop information that would result in breaking the case.

TOTAL OF $700

This reward was added to ones announced earlier yesterday. The Macon News posted $100 and this was followed immediately by another $100 offered by Mayor Charles L. Bowden. The $700 will be paid on conviction of the rapist.

Solicitor Charles H. Garrett announced the action of the grand jury, stating it followed discussion of the series of attacks on white women. He said the matter was presented informally since there were no formal charges before the inquisitorial body.

The jury not only asked for the increase in officers, but made a demand for a determined hunt for the Negro or Negroes responsible for the series of outrages, Mr. Garrett said.

Solicitor Garrett declared that the police and county officers are making every effort to capture the criminals. He said the jury had pointed out the sharp increase in population of the city and county had made it necessary to expand the law enforcement forces of the county.

Sheriff James R. Hicks Jr. has assigned Deputy Oscar Harris, chief criminal investigator, to full time work on the latest case. The entire force of sheriff's deputies were working on the case last night as were county police.

SEARCH PRESSED

Mayor Bowden was pressing the city police department as the search widened for the assailants of the white women.

Both the sheriff's office and the city police department were silent last night, but it was reported one clue had been left by the rapist in his flight. The value of this clue had not been determined, but officers were hopeful that it might be of assistance in determining the identity of the rapist.

EVERY EFFORT MAY 2 2 1942

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Assault Trial Will Be Held Here June 8

MAY 30 1942

A superior court criminal calendar with "every triable case" was posted yesterday by Solicitor-General Charles H. Garrett for the week beginning June 8. At the top was listed the indictment charging J. B. Holmes, 22-year-old Negro with rape of a 45-year-old woman mill worker.

Second in interest is the case laying assault with intent to murder to Sam Kitchens, defeated for re-election [illegible] county sheriff in the last election. Kitchens, who was granted a full pardon from a one-to-four year term for the slaying of B. F. Wimberly in an automobile on a downtown Macon street 18 months ago, will face trial in the shooting of one of his deputies who completed a party of three. The group had come here to investigate a case, it was was testified.

The state says that Kitchens shot Wimberly and Deputy Sheriff Clyde Bridges while the sheriff rode on the back seat of the car opposite the postoffice. Bridges was shot through the head, a bullet entering a cheek and emerging from the other at a point slightly higher. Kitchens testified that one of the men had made a motion to draw a weapon.

The sheriff had spent only a few days in Bibb county jail when he was granted a full pardon by then Governor E. D. Rivers, and his appeal to the slaying verdict was then withdrawn from appelate court.

Solicitor Garrett said last night he is determined to push the assault charge vigorously at the trial June 10. Kitchens has been farming in Twiggs county.

Slated for hearing June 8 are Noah Lee Barrett and Willie Jackson, alias Bubber Jackson, Negroes, indicted on charges by Baughn Lemon, Negro, that the pair tortured him with a firebrand and rubber hose after he had purchased liquor at Barrett's place. Lemon could not be found when the case was called last week.

Four cases of murder, four of assault with intent to murder, four of burglary, one of robbery, one of forgery and three of receiving stolen goods are also included on the calendar.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Jury Indicts J. B. Holmes For Assault

MAY 27 1942

Indicted for rape yesterday on the testimony of the victim and one officer, J. B. Holmes, 22-year-old-Negro held in the assault of a 45-year-old woman textile worker will probably face trial in Superior court during the week of June 8.

Solicitor General Charles H. Garrett said last night that he was putting the case on the calendar for that date, and that he expected to lose little time in bringing the accused brick firm worker to the bar.

MAY 27 1942

The victim of the assault by two Negroes at the old Massey Felton lumberyard a week ago entered the grand jury room yesterday with halting steps, attired in black and leading her curly-haired son of five years. On her face there was a smile that was almost benign.

She was before the jury about 15 minutes. Then Deputy Sheriff Oscar Harris, first to interview her after the assault, was called. There were no other witnesses. The indictment was returned less than an hour later.

MAY 27 1942

Still at large is the companion of the man she has identified as Holmes. The woman had told officers that two Negroes attacked her, hurled her to the ground and choked her into insensibility. Since she lapsed into unconsciousness at about the time of the second assault, she is "going slow" on identifying the last assailant, she told Deputy Harris.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Speedy Action of Woman Aids in Negro's Arrest

JUNE 1942

Mrs. Jack VanLloyd, whose timely aid was credited with having contributed toward a quick arrest, last night told in unwavering tones the story of the seventh attack case to stagger Macon in less than three months time.

"I was in the apartment at the corner of Orange and New streets when I heard the sounds of a scuffle below. I heard something fall in the street and then a woman screamed.

"At the window I saw a heavy set man struggling with a woman who appeared to be about 32 years of age below. I started screaming and rushed downstairs.

WOMEN CALLED

"At that time several women had been called out of a home down the street some distance and they called for the woman to run toward them. She ran down New street, stumbling in front of the home of Patrolman J. F. Flynt, who was off duty and at home at the time.

"The woman fainted but later, while still terror-stricken told neighbors that her attacker had choked her and had commanded that she not say a word. She said she thought the man had a knife in his hand."

"Patrolman Flynt joined in the search at once and a little later they had a man under arrest."

DESCRIPTION GIVEN

Mrs. VanLloyd gave police a description of the man she had seen, terming him as "heavy set, without hat, and wearing a blue or grey striped shirt." She said the man was stuffing his shirttail in his trousers when last she saw him running down Orange street.

After officers had arrested a man answering this general description he was taken to the VanLloyd home for identification. She asked that he be taken several feet away and that the lights be extinguished so that conditions would be the same as when she saw the assault.

"His clothing fit, all right," she said. "When I saw the man he didn't have a hat on. This man they brought for identification had a hat on his head.

QUESTION

JUN 1 1942

"Officers asked me if I didn't think the man could have been carrying the hat in his hand, and I couldn't say as to that. The woman he attacked, however, said he had a hat when he jumped at her."

Mrs. VanLloyd, after crying for the help of the neighbors in the area when she saw the occurrence in the street below her apartment, phoned her husband to ask that he call the police. Other neighbors had called officers at about the same time, however.

The quick-acting woman said that a large crowd gathered in the area at once and that police were on the spot in a very short time. She said that everyone appeared to be very much aroused.

"I heard three shots fired while the chase was on," she said.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Police Nab Suspect Speedily

JUN 1 1942

Assault Try Made At Orange and New

By LINT BURKETT

Within three hours after a judge in the Superior court had sent one Negro to the electric chair for rape, a case of attempted rape occurred last night in Macon.

And with speedy action, Macon police in less than an hour nabbed a suspect whom witnesses reportedly identified as the assaulter. The suspect was booked on a "loitering and hold" charge as Sylvester Andrews, 2[illegible] Tindall apartments.

The attack occurred at Orange and New streets, making the second attempted rape in that neighborhood since May 20. At that time a woman was attacked at First and Orange streets.

FIVE SHOTS FIRED

The man was arrested following a chase by City Detectives W. C. Bowden and L. B. McCallum. Five shots were fired in the course of the chase.

McCallum's version of the successful chase was as follows:

"We answered a call to the home of Officer J. F. Flynt who told us a woman had been attacked in the 900 block of New street. The Negro was seen going up Orange into an alley in the direction of Hemlock.

"We went into the alley and some Negroes there told us he had gone on down the alley. We then circled into Cotton avenue to head him off. We sighted him at Cotton avenue and New street. He ran down New and into Coleman's Lane. We ran around the block in the car to head him off. He doubled back and Bowden got out of the car to chase him while I drove around the block to close in on him from that direction.

BETWEEN TWO HOUSES

"He ran up between two houses in Coleman's Lane, in the direction of Bowden. He then saw the lights of the car and knew he could not cross the alley.

"He threw his hat under a house and darted into an outhouse, where we finally cornered him."

The woman victim was said to have been about 33 years of age. Officers said they believe that she was returning to her home when the attack occurred. They said they had been informed the Negro choked her.

VARIOUS VERSIONS

Some versions given the officers were to the effect that she had been knocked or thrown down, or slung away from the Negro when she screamed.

Chief of Detectives E. L. Foster said she appeared to be suffering pain in her throat.

Following his arrest the officers took the man back to the scene of the attempted rape and there they said that four people, including the victim, had positively identified the man.

OFFICERS RETICENT

Officers were reticent at this time to link the man with previous attempted rape which occurred on May 20 at the corner of First and Orange streets, in the early morning. This victim stopped to tie her shoe when the attempted attack was made. The assailant [illegible] by Alton Long, Telegraph carrier boy, who gave chase to the Negro.

Numerous witnesses to the attempt last night were questioned by officers after the arrest of the Negro. A few young men gathered around the police station but appeared to be merely curious.

The Negro was sweating profusely when officers nabbed him.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Negro Says Attack Case Is Frameup

Defendant Blames Police and Women

Charges that he was "framed" by police and women witnesses constituted the major defense offered by Sylvester Andrews, Negro, on trial for his life for allegedly raping a woman of his own race, when he took the stand yesterday in his own behalf.

Andrews in an unsworn statement told the jury that he had gone home on June 10, the date of the last offense against a white woman, about 4:30 or five o'clock and that he ate, slept, awakened about 11, ate again and then walked down town to meet his wife. He said he stopped at the home of a Negro by the name of Lee in Coleman's alley and knocked on the door only to find that the man was not there. It was then that he was arrested by Detectives L. B. McCallum and Cliff Bowden, he said.

According to other testimony offered at the trial, which has been in progress since Monday morning in the Bibb Superior court, it was between 10 and 11 p.m. on the night of June 10 that a white woman was attacked at the corner of Orange and New streets.

SAW STRANGE NEGROES

Andrews said there were two strange Negroes in the alley when he came in there.

He told of being taken to the scene of the crime and of being walked about on Orange and New streets by the officers.

The state had offered testimony that officers had taken him to the scene and had him stand in spots where two white women said they had seen him. They also started taking him to the home of the victim but she recognized him before he reached the house.

Andrews told of groups of men gathering about the officers and talking, and then of being taken to police headquarters where, he said, his clothing was taken from him.

Officers said they took his clothes from him in the Bibb county jail.

He then told of the officers taking the key to his home. Then followed a long, involved, detailed statement relative to the manner in which he had been placed in a series of line-ups for the victims to try to identify him.

FRAMEUP CHARGED

It was here that he first charged the officers with "framing" him. He said that they placed him at last in each line-up, and while they designated each other Negro in the line by a non-identifying number, they always called to him, "Come on Sylvester," when they were ready for him and thus gave the victims a clue as to whom they should pick.

In rebuttal the state offered the testimony that he had not been placed at the end of the line and that at no time was he ever designated by name nor were the other men given numbers.

He climaxed his testimony by denying the ownership of a gray, or blue, woolen cap one of the victims said he had been wearing, a workman's cap another said he wore, and a hat it was testified he wore the night of the last attack. As regards the other articles, such as shirts, shoes and trousers, he said that he had bought the clothes after the attacks mentioned had been made and that he had cut the tell-tale holes in his shoes after the prosecuting witnesses had been attacked. She had positively identified the shoes as being worn by her assailant.

He rose before the jury and placed the woolen cap on his head to show that it did not fit him. Then to demonstrate that he had a green cap that did fit, he tried on another one. The latter cap had been found at the home of his mother-in-law who swore that it had been there since September.

RAILMEN TESTIFY

Two railroad men, John Howard and Cleveland Norton, employes of the Central of Georgia, swore they had seen him wearing a hat very similar to the gray one, to and from work. When the larger cap was placed by the side of the smaller one and they were told to pick out the one they believed he wore, they each selected the damning grey smaller cap.

Andrews then told the jury that he loved his wife and had no thought of infidelity. He ended by stating that the women victim of the March 23 attack specifically had "framed" him as well as the police.

"I ain't guilty, I wants to ask you jurors to look into it," was his concluding statement.

A total of five white women positively identified him as having been involved in attacks. Three of the women were victims and the other two swore they saw him leaving the scene of the June 10 attack.

The trial opened with the recall of the Negro victim to the stand, who refuted her testimony of the previous day in which she swore that she wanted to retract previous statements because she was not certain he had been one of the men to attack her.

THREATS REPORTED

She told the court that Miss Alene Harden, attorney for Andrews, had threatened her with a warrant for her arrest and had shaken he finger in her face. She also said that a Negro woman by the name of Clara Fudge had actin her face. She said that Miss Harden and the Fudge woman costed her and shook her finger had talked to her at the same time. She also told the court of having been threatened by others of "someday finding a knife stuck in her."

The portions of her testimony pertaining to having fingers shaken in her face were corroborated by Detectives Bowden and McCallum, Miss Virginia Childers, one of the witnesses who saw Andrews on the night of the Orange street attack, and by one of the victims.

She then repeated her identification of Andrews as the person who had attacked her.

On cross examination she told Miss Harden that she had retracted her testimony on the previous day because of what Miss Harden had told her.

Detective McCallum was the next witness called by the state and he told of the pursuit and arrest of Andrews and the subsequent arrangement of line-ups for the victims to see him.

McCallum also told of seeing Miss Harden and Clara Fudge shake their fingers in the face of the prosecuting witness on the previous day.

Solicitor General Garrett then presented a chart of the area surrounding the sites of the various attacks and asked the officer to testify as to its accuracy, which he did. He also identified the clothing as being that which the man wore the night of his arrest. He said that in a line-up the first victim became almost hysterical when she saw Andrews.

Detective Bowden, the next witness, corroborated McCallum's testimony.

IDENTIFIED VICTIMS

Then the three victims were called in succession and each in turn named Andrews as her assailant.

The Orange and New street victim said that she not only recognized him by his appearance but also by his voice. She told of returning home from a show on the night of June 10 and at the corner of Orange and New being accosted by Andrews and asked the directions for reaching the 800 block of Orange street.

She said she gave him the directions and then a car passed. She said he continued walking towards her and when close, he seized her and demanded that she say nothing.

She screamed and fought back. Then, she said, he fled and people in the neighborhood began coming to their doors and windows. However, when she last saw him leaving the scene he was walking.

Miss Childers told of being attracted by the screams and of going off the steps of her porch and then seeing Andrews enter the alley near her home. She also was positive in her identification. Mrs. Russell Raines, another resident of the vicinity said she was in bed and went to her window when she heard the screams and saw a man whom she identified as Andrews across the street from her.

It was then that the victim of the May 20 attack at Orange and First streets identified him.

KNIFE WAS USED

The first victim, of the March 23 attack, said he had come up behind her near Bibb Mill No. 2, and pressed a knife to her throat which she pushed off with her hand, and screamed loudly at the same time. Some one coming to the door at a nearby house frightened him away and he ran. A dog was barking also.

The state rested at 2:35 after introducing the chart and Andrews' clothing in evidence.

The first witness for the defense was Miss Harden, attorney for Andrews. She denied shaking her finger in the face of the prosecution witness and of threatening her in any way. She said she was simply interested in having the truth brought out.

She said that she had gone to the girl because she had been told by "someone" that the girl wished to see her.

"I treated her with gentleness and kindness," she said.

This occurred during a court recess, she said.

Clara Fudge was the next defense witness and she also denied attempting to coerce the prosecuting witness. Frances Turner, sister of the defendant, was called. She said she had seen the conference between the prosecution witness and Miss Harden and the Fudge woman and there had been no appearance of threats being made. She said she had seen no one shake their fingers in the girl's face.

Sadie Butler, the mother-in-law of Andrews, was next called and she tried to testify as to when Andrews had told her he left home on the night of June 10, but Judge A. M. Anderson would not permit this, saying she would have to know of her own knowledge.

Louise Body, a neighbor of Andrews' was the next witness who testified as to his general good conduct.

DEFENSE LOSES MOTION

Miss Harden then asked that the evidence relative to the attempted rape of the white women be thrown out of the record but her motion was overruled.

After Andrews had given his statement P. B. Douglas, proprietor of the cafe where Andrews' wife works was called and asked if Andrews did not customarily come there for his wife when she got off from work. He replied that he had never seen Andrews and that he did not know who, if anybody, came for the woman.

The defense called J. E. Lanier, time keeper for the Central of Georgia railroad on the stand with his records of when Andrews had worked.

His records show Andrews had worked:

March 23, from 7:38 a. m. to 4:32 p. m.

[The attack on that date occurred about 6 a. m.]

May 7, from 7:48 a. m. until 4:33 p. m.

[The attack on that date occurred at night].

May 20, Andrews had not worked.

June 10, from 7:38 a. m. to 4:33 p. m.

[The attack on that date occurred at night].

With the conclusion of the testimony of Lanier, Judge Anderson called Miss Harden and the solicitor to the bench to assign them an hour and a half each for their arguments and then recessed the court until 9:30 this morning.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Miss Harden Faces Charges Of Contempt

Miss Alene Harden, counsel for Sylvester Andrews, was charged with contempt of court for alleged intimidating the prosecution witness in the Andrews case, yesterday afternoon by Judge A. M. Anderson in Bibb Superior court.

The hearing on the charges was set for Monday at 10 a.m. She was ordered held under $200 bond, which she made at the office of Sheriff James R. Hicks Jr.

At the same time contempt charges also were filed against Clara Fudge, Negro woman, and she also was charged with intimidating the state's principal witness in the Andrews case.

The action took place in open court. The jury which convicted Andrews was kept in the box after the sentence of death was pronounced to hear an explanation from J. Millard Jackson of why he had quit the case. Jackson had been appointed by the court to assist in the defense of the Negro.

EXPLAINS WITHDRAWAL

Jackson told the jury that he had been unable to take any part in the case as Miss Harden, who was employed by Andrews and therefore was principal counsel, would not permit him to offer objections to the state's testimony. He felt that he could not do Andrews any good and was not helping Miss Harden, he said.

He had asked Judge Anderson to permit him to withdraw, which request was granted.

Miss Harden then stood before the jury and publicly apologized to Jackson.

Judge Anderson, from the bench, explained to the jury that he had asked Jackson to assist in the case as he was desirious of having a speedy trial. He added that when the conditions under which Jackson was working were explained to him, and Miss Harden had agreed to the withdrawal he granted the request.

The judge then addressed Solicitor Charles Garrett saying that he understood there had been improper conduct of some people connected with the case.

JUDGE ASKS CITATIONS

"I ask you to give me the citations for contempt against them," he said.

Garrett then explained there was evidence of a witness having been intimidated, and added that the jury, by bringing in its verdict of guilty, had tactily agreed there had been something of the sort.

He then said he already had dictated the contempt citations and handed them to the judge. Miss Harden was seated acress the attorney's table from him, her white lace-gloved hands gripped tightly.

Clara Fudge was not in court having made bond earlier in the day. She had already been charged with contempt.

evidence of the three attempted attacks on white women as purely corroborative.

The jury retired at 3:10 p.m. and returned a verdict at 3:45. In the meantime the court had started work on a murder case and this had to be delayed to permit the jury to return to deliver its verdict. As the courthouse clock solemnly tolled the hour of four, the jury, just as solemnly, filed into the room filled with the booming of the big clock's bell.

ANDREWS UNMOVED

A few seconds after the verdict was handed to Solicitor Garrett who read it aloud. Even then Andrews remained unmoved.

The trial of the Negro began on Monday morning and was packed with more spectacular developments than have been seen at the courthouse for thirty or more years, old timers said.

The first sensation came in the trial when J. Millard Jackson, appointed by the court as associate counsel, left the case. The next was when the prosecuting witness refuted her original testimony and said she could not identify Andrews as the man who attacked her.

Solicitor Garrett then asked for recess of court until Tuesday morning and, after a quick investigation of why the girl changed her story, placed the girl and three other Negro women in jail. She originally was charged with perjury and the others with contempt of court. Charges against her have now been dropped.

MANY IDENTIFY ANDREWS

Tuesday morning when court convened the girl came back to the witness stand and told of being threatened by a woman known as Clara Fudge and Miss Harden while she was seated out in the corridor alongside the courtroom.

And then woman after woman sat in the witness stand and identified Andrews as the man who attempted to attack them.

Yesterday, twelve weary men took thirty-five minutes to reach their verdict.

The drama was ended. "Death" rang down the curtain.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Police Probe Report Negress Molested Attack Case Witness

Martha Gordon, Negress, 23, Gilmore street, is being held in city barracks while police investigate reports that she had been molesting the prosecuting witness against B. Holmes, Negro, convicted of the rape of a white woman and sentenced to die in the electric chair.

The woman was arrested by Officers Thomas B. Tyler and E. W. Digby yesterday. She is being held on an open charge of loitering.

The officers said they would continue their investigation today and that it was possible they would be able to go into police court with what evidence they obtained.

Holmes is being held in the Bibb county jail pending the hearing on a motion for new trial that will be heard July 22.

Solicitor General Charles H. Garrett said last night it had been reported to him that the victim of the rape had gone to the home of the Gordon woman and attempted to employ the Gordon woman's daughter to act as a nurse for the victim's small three year old boy.

The Negress is reported to have refused, the solicitor said, with the remark she was afraid her daughter "might try to rape that sweet little boy."

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Negro Indicted by Bibb Jury On Criminal Assault Charge

The Bibb county grand jury yesterday indicted Sylvester Andrews, Negro, for raping a Negro woman, and will continue investigations of other cases at 10 a.m. today.

Andrews already was under indictment for attempted assaults upon three white women.

Solicitor Charles Garrett plans to bring Andrews to trial in Bibb superior court next Monday on the charge of rape and demand the death penalty.

Also indicted by the grand jury yesterday was Rufus Sanders, charged with robbery by force of Isadore Goldman, Macon business man.

6940

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

FACES CHAIR FOR ATTACK ON WHITE GEORGIA WOMAN

JAN 24 1942

JAN 24 1942

JAN 24 1942

MACON, Ga., Jan. 22—Robert Walker, Jones county, Ga., who protested against court appointment of his attorneys, is scheduled to die in the Georgia electric chair February 13 for the rape of a 54-year-old white woman near Gray, Ga., December 21.

Walker was convicted January 15 in a one-day trial in Bibb county superior court, where Eddie Lee Spivey, the only man ever returned alive by a lynch mob, was acquitted in December of a rape charge.

Before the hearing opened, Walker asked for postponement of his trial. He said he had not had an opportunity to employ a lawyer and declared he had not asked Judge Ben Joe Jackson of Jones county to appoint counsel for him. County-appointed Attorneys Guy Anderson, Pierce Anderson, and E. L. Jackson of Gray said they were prepared for the trial, having been appointed two weeks prior to trial.

JAN 24 1942

ASK FOR NEW TRIAL

The woman victim positively identified Walker as her attacker. Sheriff J. P. Hawkins said he had to shoot Walker on the wrist in making the arrest, because Walker drew a gun on him. The gun, the state claimed, was stolen from the house in which the attack was committed.

Walker's statement denying the crime and offering an alibi was the only defense—he had no witnesses.

The court-appointed lawyers asked a mistrial on the grounds that Solicitor C. S. Baldwin, Jr., of Jones superior court used inflamatory racial comments in his arguments. Baldwin said the Negro must have been trying to show his equality or superiority over a person of another race by committing such a crime. Judge Anderson overruled the motion.

Motion has been filed for a new trial.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Spivey Back In Dodge Jail

JUN 25 1942

Eddie Lee Spivey, the former Dodge county farm Negro who received considerable notoriety as the central figure in a sensational assault case, has been removed

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Negro Denies Attack Charge

On the day that the State of Georgia offered $150 rewards for the Negro or Negroes who raped and attempted to rape white women in Macon, Sylvester Andrews, indicted on three counts of assault with intent to rape, made his first public denial of guilt in any of the crimes.

The state's offer announced yesterday brought the total rewards offered to $1,450.

D. Lee Churchwil, Andrews' attorney, quoted the Negro as telling him in a cell conference that he was innocent.

The grand jury indicted Andrews after he had been "positively identified" in three cases. Solicitor Charles Garrett asked that his trial be delayed 24 the hopes the state can obtain an out-of-state witness to identify Andrews for a rape charge.

Governor Talmadge has issued five proclamations offering $150 for the apprehension of the attacker. The Bibb Manufacturing Company previously had offered $500, Mayor Charles Bowden, and The Macon News, $100 reward.

to Eastman and is again being held in the Dodge county jail.

Spivey was picked up here yesterday and immediately taken to Eastman where he has been ordered held as a material witness in connection with a case pending against his lawyer in the rape case, D. Lee Churchwell, Macon.

Sheriff J. Charlton Lewis said last night that Spivey made the trip from Macon to Eastman in the custody of deputies "without any unusual

Trial of Churchwell on a charge of barratry is scheduled for July 20, in the city court of Eastman, Sheriff Lewis said.

"We had an order from the judge of the court, Judge A. Russell Ross, to hold Spivey as a material witness so that we can be sure he will be here to testify at the trial," Sheriff Lewis commented.

Spivey is a witness for the state, it was also related. The Negro, too, has been charged with barratry.

JUN 25 1942

City Detective M. [illegible]guley arrested Spivey at the latter's home on Moughon street and delivered him a few minutes later to custody of Dodge county officers.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Woman Doesn't Want to Appear Against Suspected Assaulter

A woman's aversion to appearing in court may block the indictment against Sylvester Andrews, 23, Negro, on a charge of actual rape, instead of just trials on three counts of attempted rape, Solicitor General Charles H. Garrett said last night.

The victim of the March 12 attack, for which the Negro was jailed, has left the city. Solicitor Garrett said he had been unable to persuade the woman to return from Pennsylvania to confront the prisoner. He is continuing his efforts but is uncertain as to his success in the matter.

"I can see her side of it," the solicitor said, "but I am trying to convince her that it is her duty to come back. The county, of course, will finance the trip."

The Bibb county grand jury today is scheduled to get three cases of attempted rape against Andrews. Penal terms are the maximum punishment in these cases, while the actual assault case carries the death penalty.

JUN 6 1942

D. L. Churchwell, the Negro's attorney, said last night that he had not been permitted to confer privately with his client. He declared he was not familiar with the charges against him.

Solicitor Garrett said he planned to put the Negro on trial Monday, should indictments be returned today.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Courthouse News

Negro Facing Trial on Charge Of Using Obscene Language

Emmett Ricks, Negro, will be tried Monday for using obscene language in the presence of a woman when the city court takes up its docket of 64 criminal cases.

The Ricks case simmered down to a city court case of using obscene language, after the Negro was first arrested on a charge of an attempted assault upon a white woman.

It took a queer turn when a private detective, John Lowe, was cited for contempt of court when Solicitor Charles Garrett charged the detective had attempted to bribe his assistant into having the case against Ricks dismissed.

Another case to be tried is against Herman [illegible]ogue, charged with selling beer on Sunday. John Twilley, Melvin [illegible]alker and Henry Yaughn face trial for rioting.

The cases on the docket include drunkenness, violating the health laws, assault and battery, larceny, vagrancy, violating the alcoholic control act, driving without the owner's consent, carrying and pointing a pistol, soliciting for prostitution, and malicious mischief.

Thirty-one cases have been set for Monday and 31 for Tuesday. Solicitor Oscar Long will be the prosecutor, Judge [illegible]ocil Baldwin will preside.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Assault Case Suspect Moved

Sylvester Andrews, 23, Negro arrested following the seventh attack case in Macon in three months, yesterday was moved to county jail although city police termed him still "our prisoner."

"Positively identified" by five witnesses [illegible] of the Orange and New streets attack Wednesday night, an effort was also being made yesterday to connect him with at least one other assault case.

City detectives were piecing together evidence from the former and this week's assaults. Several witnesses were questioned as the search for new details was continued.

Heading this investigation were Detectives L. B. McCallum and W. C. Bowden, who captured Andrews only a few minutes after the attack was reported.

Meanwhile Chief of [illegible] Robert L. Miller paid high tribute to the residents of the Orange and New streets area where the latest assault occurred.

He said their "prompt assistance in the matter and their early notification of the police contributed in a large measure to the immediate arrest."

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Negro, Identified as Attacker in Four Cases; May Face Death Trial For Assaulting Negress

Sylvester Andrews, Negro identified as the attacker of four Macon white women, will die in the electric chair for the rape of a member of his own race, if a Bibb county jury heeds the request of Solicitor General Charles Garrett.

The prosecutor yesterday afternoon announced that he would bring Andrews to trial for the rape of a 22-year-old Negro woman, and demand the death penalty.

The woman, only [illegible] victim of the series of attacks which shocked Macon during the past three months, yesterday identified Andrews as one of two men who choked and raped her on the night of May 7.

Her identification of the Negro came less than two hours after a 33-year-old white woman had failed to identify him as the man who attacked her near the Second street overpass on the morning of March 12.

SOLICITOR TRIES PLANS

Solicitor Garrett immediately announced that he would bring Andrews to trial for the rape of the Negress, rather than for any of the cases of attempted rape, in order that he might ask the death penalty. Maximum sentence for the minor offense is 20 years in the penitentiary.

At the same time, both the prosecutor and Chief of Police Robert L. Miller announced that all of the recent attack cases had been marked "closed." Each said he believed that trial of Andrews, coupled with the recent conviction of J. B. Holmes, would end the series of assaults.

Andrews was identified last week by three Macon attack victims. Yesterday, in announcing that the Negress had picked him from a line-up of Negroes as her attacker the officials revealed that a fourth white woman also had identified him.

She was a young cotton mill worker who fought her way free of a Negro after being attacked in Washington Park on the morning of March 25. Detectives said she had "positively identified" Andrews Thursday afternoon.

CAUGHT IN CHASE

City Detectives L. B. McCallum and Cliff Bowden, who arrested Andrews at the end of a hectic chase less than 15 minutes after a white woman had been attacked in the 900 block of New street on the night of June 10, completed their case against the Negro shortly after noon yesterday when they took the Negress before a line-up of six Negroes. She immediately pointed Andrews out as her attacker, they said.

Previously, the Negress had identified a pair of dark trousers, a yellow shirt and a pair of "home-made cut-out" shoes as the clothing he wore at the time of the assault, the detectives said. The clothing was found at Andrews home in Tindall Heights apartments after his arrest.

Solicitor Garrett said the woman identified the clothing in his office, after having described it to officers on the night of the attack.

"I'd know those shoes anywhere," he quoted her as saying.

Earlier in the afternoon, the young white woman rape victim, who had returned voluntarily from Pennsylvania, had failed to identify Andrews when he was brought before her in a line-up of eight Negroes.

GRAND JURY TO MEET

Solicitor Garrett said he would ask the Bibb county grand jury to indict Andrews for the rape of the Negress, when that body reconvenes Tuesday morning. If the bill is returned, he said, he will set the case down for trial in superior court on Monday, June 29.

If that schedule is followed, he said, the other attack cases, originally set for that date, will be postponed and probably not tried unless Andrews is freed on the more serious charge.

The prosecutor said he would use evidence in all of the assault cases in pressing for the death penalty in the one case to be tried.

Introduction of evidence showing similar [illegible] is permissible under Georgia law. This the state, while asking the death penalty for the crime committed against the Negress, will be able to bring before the jury the four white women attack victims.

If Andrews is convicted and given the death penalty, he will be the second Negro to receive such a verdict at the hands of a local jury within a month. Two weeks ago, J. B. Holmes, 22-year-old Negro, was sentenced to die in the electric chair for the rape of a 55-year-old white woman last month.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Courthouse News

New Trial Is Refused Negro Convicted on Assault Charge

The plea of a convicted Negro raper of a white woman for a new trial has been overruled by Judge A. M. Anderson in Bibb superior court.

Judge Anderson announced yesterday he had denied the appeal of Robert Walker, Negro, given the death sentence a few months ago for criminally assaulting a Jones county white woman, for a new trial.

T. A. Jacobs Jr., Walker's attorney, is taking the appeal to the Georgia supreme court.

Walker surprised the courtroom when, at the beginning of his trial here, he said he had not been given an opportunity to hire a lawyer. His court-appointed attorneys said they were ready to proceed, and the judge ruled that Walker had had ample opportunity to employ an attorney.

THREE GAMBLING SLAYINGS

The third defendant this week in three Negro gambling game murder cases—in which stakes totaled only $1.90—was sentenced to serve from 15 to 20 years by Judge A. M. Anderson in Bibb superior court Friday afternoon.

Fred Newkirk, charged with murdering Howard Lee [Bar-C] Miller in a quarrel over 25 cents in a "skin" game, was convicted of manslaughter, and given 15 to 20 years.

Willie Fann was given a life sentence this week for slaying another Negro in a gambling game. The argument was said to have been over $1.50.

The cheapest case—an argument over 15 cents in a gambling game—sent Charlie Hollis to prison for 12 to 20 years. Hollis pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

Mary Gooden, jointly indicted with Newkirk, is yet to be tried.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Negro Gets Year's Sentence For Use of Obscene Language

Emmett Ricks, Macon Negro barber, was sentenced by Judge Cecil Baldwin in city court Friday afternoon to serve 12 months on a public works camp for using obscene language in the presence of a white woman.

A jury convicted Ricks after less than 20 minutes deliberation.

The Negro was accused of making advances on the white woman. The sister-in-law of the woman, testifying for the defense, said the woman drank a soft drink with the Negro immediately following the alleged incident, and did not report the insult to her husband or the police until 10 days later.

Ricks filed motion for a new trial.

WOMAN TO DEFEND NEGRO

A white woman attorney will defend Sylvester Andrews, Negro indicted for assault with intent to rape three white women, when he goes on trial in Bibb superior court July 6 for raping a Negro woman.

Miss Alene Hardin told Judge A. M. Anderson yesterday that she had been employed to represent Andrews. She asked that the trial be delayed at least two weeks to give her an opportunity to prepare the case. Judge Anderson declined to delay the trial, but offered to appoint an attorney to assist Miss Hardin, if she desired, in getting the case ready for July sixth.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Assault Trial To Open Today In Bibb Court

A trial for rape, one for murder and one for accessory to the fact of second degree murder are all slated for appearance in Bibb superior court, civil division, during the coming week.

Sylvester Andrews, Negro, is scheduled to go on trial today on a charge of raping a Negro woman and Solicitor General Charles H. Garrett said that he would ask the death penalty.

TWO OTHER CHARGES

Andrews also faces trial on two other charges of attempted rape of two white women if he is not given the death penalty in the case set for today, the solicitor said.

Solicitor Garrett said that he expected the Andrews case to take at least two and maybe three days.

Next on the calendar is the trial of Mary Gooding, Negress, charged with accessory to the second degree murder of Howard Lee Miller, April 26. Fred Newkirk, also a Negro, already has been convicted of second degree murder in the case and given from 15 to 20 years.

CRAP GAME KILLING

George Glover, Negro, next is slated to go on trial for the slaying of James "Sport" Wood, his uncle. The killing is said to have occurred in a crap game in Plummer's alley last month.

In addition the grand jury will return for further deliberations on Tuesday. Among the cases expected to be brought before them are those of seven white men accused of stealing automobiles and taking them out of the county where they are said to have stripped them of salable parts, and another case of two white boys accused of having committed burglary.

371-1942
Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

ILLINOIS

6941

FIVE NEGROES GET 10-14 YEARS FOR RAPE ATTEMPT

Girl's Escort Beaten in Gang Attack.

Five young Negroes whose attempt to rape a young woman was frustrated by the courageous fight of her escort were sentenced yesterday by Judge Venus H. Miner in Criminal court to 10 to 14 years each in the penitentiary. The five pleaded guilty to charges of assault to rape and rob.

In imposing the sentences Judge Miner said the assault on the young woman's escort proved the defendants were potential murderers.

The young couple who were attacked by the gang on April 27 near 56th street and Shields avenue were Miss Jean Boyd Van Arsdale, 16 years old, 6623 Shields avenue, and Michael McKenna, 17, formerly of 6337 Normal avenue. While two of the Negroes slugged McKenna unconscious with a wrench, the three others seized the young woman and dragged her to a nearby baseball diamond.

Escort Beaten Second Time.

McKenna soon recovered and followed the gang. Again he was knocked down but was able to arise and stagger for help. Three men heard his cries and seized one of the Negroes, Fred Williams, 18, of 3336 Giles avenue. Police rounded up the others: William Gaines, 18, of 3424 Prairie avenue; Otis Green, 15, of 504 East 38th street; Archie Campbell, 16, of 3144 Vernon avenue, and Joseph Butler, 17, of 3136 Vernon avenue.

"Sex criminals such as these defandants are a real threat," the judge said. "There is nothing more dastardly and vile than gang assaults to ravish and rape. Had they fully executed their vicious designs they would have been subject to life imprisonment.

"Had the victim's escort succumbed as the result of the attack, the charge would have been murder and the penalty death."

Seeks More Severe Penalty.

At the city hall Corporation Counsel Barnet Hodes said he would take steps to provide more severe punishment for the city's sex ordinance on indecent exposure. The ordinance now provides only a fine as punishment. Hodes said he would ask the city council to adopt an amendment providing a jail sentence.

In Women's court, six young women who were arrested Thursday in a drive to keep girls out of the navy recreational area in Grant park were ordered by Judge J. M. Braude to undergo tests at the social hygiene clinic. Two men, arrested with the girls, were fined $200 each on charges of disorderly conduct. They are Andrew Czerwinski, 30, and Jack Coleman, 17. Motions to vacate the findings were set for hearing Aug. 3.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

RAPIST HUNTED NEAR CAIRO, ILL.; FEAR VIOLENCE

Cairo, Ill., Dec. 26 (AP).—Fearing possible violence, state police and sheriff's deputies spurred a search today for a Negro farm laborer who had raped a white woman at nearby Villa Ridge. Farmers of the community hunted the Negro after the assault yesterday afternoon. Sheriff I. J. Hudson summoned state police.

37L-1942

INDIANA

6942

Creole's Rape Trial Ends; Gets Life In Penitentiary

Jury Reaches Verdict In Four Minutes

Gary American
Gary End.

The trial of Farnum Foster, 35-year old Gary Creole. charged with the rape of a nine-year-old Hammond girl, got under way Tuesday in Lake criminal court before a jury of nine married women and three men.

The girl was the first witness called by the prosecution when the trial started. Harry Long, deputy prosecutor, is expected to ask for life imprisonment of Foster. who Hammond police say has confessed to the attack.

NOV. 20, 1942

Foster was convicted Wednesday in Judge Murray's court for the rape of a little nine-year-old child near Hammond late in June. The jury composed of nine women and three men spent little time in the jury room after they had heard the damaging evidence against the rapist.

According to the Hammond police, Foster, who lived at 2337 Adams. lured the girl into his car last July 20, and then drove to a lonely spot south of the Woodmar Country club where he attacked her.

The jury, which was selected late Monday, are four Gary persons. Mrs. Cora Wright, 307 South Henry; Mrs. Margaret Swing, 4157 Madison; Mrs. Juanita Nelson, 1532 West 5th, and George Reeder. R. R. 2.

Others are: Frank Warmbier, East Chicago; Mrs. Emma H. Price, Crown Point; Mrs. Mary M. Sisson, Lowell; Mrs. Mattie Yost and Mrs. May Zbikowski. Hammond; Andrew P. Theil, St. John and Mrs. Emilie Ofner and Mrs. Elizabeth Schaal. Indiana Harbor.

37L-1942

KENTUCKY

6943

2 More Lawyers Named By Court To Defend Negro

Lexington, Ky., June 18 (AP)—Two additional court-appointed attorneys were named today for James Lee "Wildman" Robertson, Hazard Negro, who is to be tried here July 1 on a charge of murder in a rape-slaying of a white woman at Hazard.

Fayette Circuit Judge Chester D. Adams continued until next month the case, brought here on a change of venue and scheduled to be called for trial today, because of a crowded docket and appointed Lawrence Jenkins and W. E. Darragh, Lexington, to aid Courtney Wells, Hazard, defend the Negro.

Wells earlier had been appointed by Perry Circuit Court.

Robertson, in jail here, is charged with the death of Miss Bertha Lehman, Tennessee-born religious education teacher, last month.

Suspect In Rape And Killing Goes On Trial Today

Lexington, Ky., June 30 (AP)—Trial of James Lee "Wildman" Robertson, 26, Hazard Negro, on indictments charging rape and murder, is to open in Fayette Circuit Court tomorrow.

The case was brought here on a change of venue from Perry County.

Robertson is charged with the death of Miss Bertha Lehman, 26, religious education instructor at the Hazard Presbyterian Church, whose body was found May 15. She was a native of Kingsport, Tenn.

A few hours later, Robertson was arrested and brought here for safekeeping. En route to Lexington, Sheriff Charles Cornett of Hazard said, Robertson signed a statement admitting the slaying.

Judge Chester D. Adams, who is to preside at the trial, last week ordered a sanity hearing for Robertson. The report of the examination has not yet been filed.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Rape Victim Says All Negroes Look Alike To Her

LOUISVILLE, KY.—(SNS)—Dura Shelman, taxi driver, charged by Francis Elders, 20, white, with rape in his car October 15, waved the case to the grand jury November 2nd. Testimony was weak against Shelman, Judge Russell of Police Court said, and held him under $1,500 bond despite Prosecutor Doughtery demand of no bail. The girl failed to identify Shelman, saying ":'all Negroes look alike to me."

It was brought out the woman was sent to the workhouse, next day after her charge on a quarantine warrant. She had been going to a private physician for treatment for a venereal disease it was brought out. Also that she was an associate of prostitutes.

371-1942

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

LOUISIANA Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

6944

EXPOSE TORTURE OF THREE SOLDIERS IN LOUISIANA; OFFICERS FORCE CONFESSION OF CRIME

Men Face All-White Jury in Alleged Assault of White Woman Who Visited Their Barracks

KEPT IN STRAIGHT JACKETS THREE WEEKS

ALEXANDRIA, La.—(ANP)—A new Scottsboro case arises in America!

This time the victims are three soldiers of the U. S. army, men who joined up to fight for freedom and democracy. At the time of this writing they are likely to be railroaded on charges of rape by an all-white jury in a hostile court. If found guilty one will burn in the electric chair and two will be given life terms in prison.

The three soldiers are Richard Phillip Adams, John Walter Bordenave and Lawrence Mitchell. They were charged with attacking a white woman at Camp Livingston May 9, but were not arrested until May 16. On June 22 they were indicted by a grand jury, and Judge Pertenie set the case for July 27. No bond was fixed in the case.

Since that time, fearing that the boys would not be given a fair trial, Mrs. Blanche Holmes, mother of Pvt. John Bordenave, has pleaded with army officers and officials of the federal government to investigate the case. She went into the case after her son wrote her July 23, declaring that he was innocent and had been arrested only after a statement from one of the others involved him. He alleges that on the night of the crime is said to have occurred he was on guard duty.

"I've been in jail 21 days," Bordenave wrote. "They put me in on the 25th day of May, this case happened on the 9th day of May and it was not reported until the 15th of May. When they put you in jail here they don't want you to say anything whether you are right or wrong. You know how it is here, they make you say you did if you did not. The camp officers did not come to see me or find out whether I was right or wrong," he declared.

He swore to his mother that he did not know anything about the case, stating that he always steered clear of "that kind of trouble."

Explaining the attitude of relations between Negro soldiers and "these kind of women," he pointed out that "they have white girls out here selling themselves. You know there was a colored soldier shot here about the same case and there was nothing done about it."

Torture Forces Confessions

When arrested the soldiers declared that they were innocent of the charges, but they were tortured until they signed written confessions, Bordenave told his mother when she spoke with him in court Monday. He said that for three weeks they were kept in straight jackets, but when they failed to confess then the torturing followed.

Three lawyer of Alexandria were appointed to the defense of the trio. They are Ward T. Jones, John R. Hunter Jr., and Isaac Wahlder.

Hunter, who is defending Bordenave, wrote Mrs. Holmes on July 10 to the effect:

"It is extremely distasteful, to say the least, for me to have to defend Bordenave, or any other Negro, charged with raping a white girl, and I did my best to try to get out of defending Bordenave, but the court would not permit me to withdraw.

"If there is any way for you to raise any money and engage some other attorney to defend Bordenave, it would be perfectly all right with me and possibly might help some. I don't want to create the impression that I will not defend Bordenave to the best of my ability, for that I will do, but if there is any way possible for me to to get out, I am going to do it."

Odds Against Him

Hunter went on to state, "It is not my intention to frighten you, but this crime is punishable by death, and the way the case stands at this time, it is my opinion that the odds are great against Bordenave and the others."

A letter to Mrs. Roosevelt was responsible for an investigation which brought a few of the facts to light. The alleged attack is said to have taken place inside a barrack in the Negro section of the camp. Two of the boys were arrested one week after the alleged incident, and the third arrested 16 days following it.

Soldiers Convicted For La. 'Attack'

ALEXANDRIA, La. (A. N. P.)—Three soldiers who figured in the Louisiana "Scottsboro" case were found guilty Thursday by an all-white jury on charges of attacking 20-year-old Anna Mae Mason, a white waitress, at Camp Livingston on May 10. The four-day trial was held in a tense and grim atmosphere, and on several occasions sphinx-faced spectators were heard to remark that the verdict had better be one of "guilty."

During the picking of the jury which took place Monday, Mrs. Blanche Holmes, the mother of John Walter Bordenave, one of the accused men, stated that she heard one of the natives say in French dialect:

"If the government didn't have charge of them (the soldiers), there would surely be a lynching."

OHION ACCUSED OF ATTACK

Richard Philip Adams, Columbus, Ohio, was charged with committing the actual attack. The other two, Lawrence Mitchell Boldurn, Mich., and Bordenave of New Orleans, were charged with being aides to the act. The Judge has not sentenced the trio.

Witnesses against the soldiers declared that about 2 a.m. May 10, the white woman and a white soldier were sleeping on a blanket behind a barracks on the white side of the camp when Adams and Mitchell drove by in a jeep. Seeing the two, Adams allegedly asked what they were doing. When told by the white soldier that they were sleeping there, Adams, according to the testimony, ordered both into the vehicle and drove off toward the Negro section of the camp, passing a white guard on the way. They declared that the white woman was forced to hide beneath the blanket.

Bordenave is said to have been on guard on the colored side, and when the jeep rolled up he let Adams have his rifle, according to the white witnesses. The white soldier is said to have been put out and Mitchell held the rifle on the woman while Adams committed the attack.

CLAIM LONG TORTURE

The three soldiers testified to the effect that they are innocent of the charges, declaring that they signed confessions only after having been tortured for three weeks.

Bordenave stated that he did not know anything of the alleged attack until May 25, sixteen days afterwards. The other soldiers were arrested one week after the alleged raped. It was not explained in court why the delay in reporting the incident.

The New Orleans NAACP is investigating the case. It is believed here that the organization may offer aid, for the mother of Bordenave declared "the boys did not get a fair trial."

According to the commanding officer, H. McE. Pendleton, the white soldier involved in the case has married the woman since the alleged attack. Efforts to find out who he is have been fruitless.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Believe 3 Soldiers Held For La. Attack Are Victims Of 'Frame-Up'

ALEXANDRIA, La.—(ANP)—A new Scottsboro case arises in America!

This time the victims are soldiers of the U. S. Army, men who joined up to fight for freedom and democracy.

At the time of this writing they are likely to be railroaded on charges of rape by an all-white jury in a hostile court.

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A letter to Mrs. Roosevelt was responsible for an investigation which brought a few of the facts to light. The alleged attack is said to have taken place inside a barracks in the Negro section of the camp. Two of the boys were arrested one week after the alleged incident, and the third arrested 16 days following it.

Soldiers Tell Of Torture

NEW ORLEANS, La.—(ANP)—[illegible] interviewed in the Federal [illegible] here where they have been placed while awaiting execution on Friday, October 30, for a crime they maintain they did not commit, the three soldiers recently convicted in the sensational Alexandria rape trial told reporters that they had been tortured and brutally treated while in custody before their trial by officers who tried to [illegible] one case forced a confession.

Deny Guilt

The three soldiers, Corporal John Wallace Bordenave, 29, of New Orleans; Private Richard Phillip Adams, 25, of Columbus, Ohio, and Private Lawrence Mitchell, 18, of Baldwin, Michigan, all denied that they had been guilty of raping the white woman, despite their conviction. The woman, allegedly raped, was Hattie Rose Mason Schuler, 30, of Ripley, Ohio.

In a trial before an all-white jury, the soldiers were all found guilty although Judge Ben Dawkins of the United States District court had cautioned them that in his opinion only one could be guilty.

Corporal Bordenave is a former student of Corpus Christi School and is well-known in the downtown section of New Orleans. His mother, Mrs. Blanche Holmes, resides at 3510 Spruce street, in the Carrollton section.

Never Confessed

"I was not beaten," Corporal Bordenave declared, "but I was kept in a straightjacket for three weeks. I have never confessed to any part of the alleged crime because I am absolutely innocent."

Mitchell and Adams, it was stated, had suffered numerous inhuman tortures such as being cut with razor blades, beaten and having a 45-calibre revolver discharged near their heads.

When interviewed Sunday, Mrs Holmes, mother of Corporal Bordenave, said she had written a letter to President Roosevelt, pointing out that even though there were names of Negroes in the wheel from which the jurors were chosen, and even were it possible to have had an all-Negro jury, pressure from the hostile surroundings would have caused them to render a verdict of guilty in spite of whatever evidence was presented.

It was further stated that all three of the accused soldiers were threatened and told that the Ku Klux Klan would "get them."

The case has been referred to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Mrs. Holmes said.

Negroes Resentful

Indicative of the widespread resentment caused among Negroes by the conviction and death sentence of these three soldiers was the manner in which the mere mention of the a csebrought pleas to tiel more about it at a mammoth mass meeting Sunday held in Oriental Baptist Church.

"These innocent ment must not die," said Ernest J. Wright, director of the People's Defense League.

A series of protest meetings and demonstrations are being planned, organization representatives disclosed.

Referring to an appeal to President Roosevelt in behalf of the condemned soldiers, Mr. Wright called attention to a news release from Dublin, Ireland which stated that the Irish people had appealed to President Roosevelt to prevent the execution of six young Irishmen convicted on a murder charge.

"If the people of Ireland can bring their appeal over to the President of the United States, we are sure that his words will have great influence on this Alexandria case in spite of the race prejudice prevalent in that section," Mr. Wright said.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Find New Evidence As Doomed Soldiers Moved For Safety

Disclose One Is Escaped Inmate Of Ohio Asylum

Doubt Appeal Has Been Filed By Appointed Lawyers

NEW ORLEANS.—(ANP)—New evidence broke this week in the case of the Alexandria, La., soldiers sentenced to die October 30 for the alleged attack on a white waitress at Camp Claiborne when it became an established fact thhat one of the charged men is an escaped inmate from an Ohio institution for the feeble minded.

The statement was made by C. C. Kirk, superintendent of the state institution for the feeble minded of Orient, Ohio, in a letter sent Reid and Cox, attorneys-at-law, Columbus, Ohio.

The letter charged that Richard Adams was admitted to the Columbus institution November 28, 1931, and transferred to Orient December 30, 1931. At the time of his incarceration he was classed as mentally deranged, while having a long record of delinquency. The superintendent further stated that the patient was in the habit of stealing which was viewed as a result of [illegible] disorder.

The patient escaped from this institution January 19, 1935. The letter concluded with "since his escape we have had no information regarding his whereabouts nor his behavior."

It was further revealed that the attorneys representing the soldiers: Ward T. Jones, John R. Hunter and Isaac Wahldor, appointed by the court, filed notices of appeals the day the sentence was made, August 10. According to information from reliable sources, all were instructed by the judge that if no other counsel were employed in the meantime, it would be their duty to prepare the necessary bills of exception and such briefs and arguments as were necessary to be filed in the appallate court.

To date, however, it is not known whether or not the lawyers have prepared the necessary papers. Evidence indicates that the appellate court [illegible] yet to receive the [illegible].

The convicted soldiers have been removed to the federal jail in New Orleans for safe keeping.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

6946

Forced to Confess To Crime

New 'Scottsboro' Case Arises in Alexandria, La.

ALEXANDRIA, La. (ANP)—A new Scottsboro case arises in America!

This time the victims are three soldiers of the U. S. army, men who joined up to fight for freedom and democracy. At the time of this writing they are likely to be railroaded on charges of rape by an all-white jury in a hostile court.

If found guilty one will burn in the electric chair and two will be given life terms in prison.

The three soldiers are Richard Phillips Adams, John Walter Bordenave and Lawrence Mitchell. They were charged with attacking a white woman at Camp Livingston May 9, but were not arrested until May 16. On June 22 they were indicted by a grand jury, and Judge Porterie set the case for July 27. No bond was fixed in the case.

Mother Makes Plea

Since that time, fearing that the boys would not be given a fair trial, Mrs. Blanche Holmes, mother of Pvt. John Bordenave, has pleaded with army officers and officials of the federal government to investigate the case.

She went into the case after her son wrote her July 23, declaring that he was innocent and had been arrested only after a statement from one of the others involved him. He alleges that on the night the crime is said to have occurred he was on guard duty.

"I've been in jail 21 days," Bordenave wrote. "They put me in on the 25th day of May, this case happened on the 9th of May and it was not reported until the 15th of May. When they put you in jail here they dnn't want you to say anything whether you are right or wrong. You know how it is here, they make you say you in jail here they don't want officers did not come to see me or ask whether I was right or wrong," he declared.

He swore to his mother that he did not know anything about the case, stating that he always steered clear of "that kind of trouble." Explaining the dangers of relations between Negro soldiers and "these kind of women," he pointed out that "they have white girls here selling themselves, you know there was a colored soldier shot here about the same case and there was nothing done about it."

Confessions Forced

When arrested the soldiers declared that they were innocent of the charges, but they were tortured until they signed written confessions. Bordenave told his mother when she spoke with him in court Monday. He said that for three weeks they were kept in straight jackets, but when they failed to confess then the torturing followed.

Three lawyers of Alexandria were appointed to the defense of the trio. They are Ward T. Jones, John R. Hunter Jr., and Isaac Wahlder.

Hunter, who is defending Bordenave, wrote Mrs. Holmes on July 10 to the effect:

"It is extremely distasteful, to say the least, for me to have to defend Bordenave, or any other Negro, charged with raping a white girl, and I did my best to try to get out of defending Bordenave, but the court would not permit me to withdraw.

"If there is any way for you raise any money and engage some other attorney to defend Bordenave, it would be perfectly all right with me and possibly might help some. I don't want to create the impression that I will not defend Bordenave to the best of my ability, for that I will do, but if there is any way possible for me to get out, I am going to do it."

Odds Against Them

Hunter went on to state, "It is not my intention to frighten you, but this crime is punishable by death, and the way the case stands at this time, it is my opinion that the odds are great against Bordenave and the others.

A letter to Mrs. Roosevelt was responsible for an investigation which brought a few of the facts to light. The alleged attack is said to have taken place inside a barracks in the Negro section of the camp. Two of the boys were arrested one week after the alleged incident, and the third arrested 16 days following it.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala

OCT 30 1942

Execution Of Negro Soldiers Deferred

NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 29.—(AP)—The scheduled execution tomorrow of three negro soldiers from Camp Claiborne, convicted of assaulting a white woman, has been stayed by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals pending further orders of the court.

The defendants, Richard Philip Adams, 25; John Walter Bordenave, 29, and Lawrence Mitchell, 18, were convicted before Federal Judge Ben C. Dawkins at Alexandria, La., and execution fixed for October 30. Counsel asked at least 90 days to perfect and file appeal.

OCT 30 1942

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Find Soldier In La. Attack Case Is Fugitive From Ohio Infirmary

SEP 12 1942

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

NEW ORLEANS — (ANP) —New evidence broke this week in the case of the Alexandria, La., soldiers sentenced to die October 30 for the alleged attack on a white waitress at Camp Claiborne, when it became an established fact that one of the charged men is an escaped inmate from an Ohio institution for the feeble minded.

The statement was made by C. O. Kirk, superintendent of the state institution for the feeble minded of Orient, Ohio, in a letter sent Reid and Cox, attorneys-at-law, Columbus, Ohio.

The letter charged that Richard Adams was admitted to the Columbus institution November 23, 1931, and transferred to Orient, December 30, 1931. At the time of his incarceration he was classed as mentally deranged, while having a long record of delinquency. The superintendent further stated that the patient was in the habit of stealing which was viewed as a result of mental disorders.

The patient escaped from this institution January 19, 1935. The letter concluded with "since his escape we have had no information regarding his whereabouts nor his behavior."

SEP 12 1942

It was further revealed that the attorneys representing the soldiers,

60 civilian pilots.

Homer Roberts, special consultant for the aviation school, has been placed in charge of the scheduled expansion, according to Willa B. Brown, coordinator of civilian pilot training and director of the Coffey school.

Dormitories are being erected on the air port for the use of air cadets, and in the future all training will be conducted at the air field including ground school classes which were formerly held in the Wendell Phillips high school.

Cornelius R. Coffey, president of the Coffey School of Aeronautics, said that part of the loan would be spent to purchase additional flight equipment for the cross-country course.

He added that the War Depart-

Prepare Appeal For 3 Soldiers Condemned To Die In Rape Case

SEP 12 1942

An appeal from the death sentence for three colored soldiers convicted for rape in Alexandria, La., is being prepared by lawyers for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, it was announced here this week.

Formal notice of appeal was filed August 13, by lawyers who were appointed to defend the three soldiers in the civil court. At that time, after the first trial, the conviction, and the death sentence, the case was brought to the attention of the NAACP, and parents of one of the men asked NAACP aid in fighting the case further. The convicted men are Privates Richard Adams, a volunteer, of Columbus, O., John Walter Bordenave, New Orleans, La.; and Lawrence Mitchell, of Michigan.

The NAACP has forty days from the date of the conviction, August 11, to prepare the appeal. Thurgood Marshall, NAACP special counsel, and other lawyers are awaiting the transcript of testimony in the first trial in order to proceed with the case.

SEP 12 1942

"We do not know exactly what can be done until we see the transcript of testimony," Marshall said. "We do not know how strong or weak the record is. We know nothing about how much effort the court-appointed lawyers made to defend their clients or save points in the record on which a good appeal could be based, but we will do the best we can with what is handed us."

37L-1942
Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

MARYLAND

6947

6947

Prince Georges Orders Ma nHeld In Assault Case

FEB 3 - 1942

Frank Haywood, 32, Negro, of Lakeland, Md., charged with the rape of an 18-year-old Washington white girl, was ordered held for action of the Prince Georges County Grand Jury yesterday.

Haywood was arrested two weeks ago after he assaulted and robbed an East Riverdale, Md., man and then threatened his wife. The couple, however, turned on their attacker and beat him into insensibility. He later confessed he had attacked the Washington girl on Christmas Eve.

Haywood will face five charges: Robbery and assault on the East Riverdale man, attempted criminal assault on the man's wife, robbery of Louis Gaither, of Daniels Park, Md., and rape.

FEB 3 - 1942

Judge Walter L. Green ordered him held without bond.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Southern Court Reverses Negro's Rape Frame Up

FEB 23 1942

Mississippi Judges Hold Testimony of White Woman Was Unsupported

FEB 23 1942

(Special to the Daily Worker)

VICKSBURG, Miss., Feb. 22.—In what may be the first action of its kind in the history of the Deep South, the Supreme Court of this state last week reversed a guilty verdict against a Negro framed on a charge of raping a 15-year old white girl.

The court, passing on the case of Willie Upton who was sentenced to death in the Warren County Circuit Court last Spring, ruled that the "uncorroborated testimony of the woman he is alleged to have raped" was insufficient evidence for a conviction.

FEB 23 1942

The case has been remanded to the Warren County Circuit Court and an appeal will be heard some time March. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is handling the legal defense in the case.

The rejection of the testimony of the white girl—an unusual action in the annals of "rape" cases—is indicative of the new and welcome trend of increasing respect for the rights of the Negro people which is penetrating even the Southern states in the present war situation.

The action of the state's highest court is also indicative of the deep lasting gains made by the world-wide campaign around the Scottsboro case in which, for the first time, the old cry of "rape" as a weapon against the Negro people was effectively and dramatically challenged.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

SHERIFF'S MEN HUNT FOR NEGRO ATTACKER

APR 14 1942

APR 14 1942

Coahoma County White Woman Injured Saturday Night

Special to The Commercial Appeal

CLARKSDALE, Miss., April 13.—The Northern section of Coahoma County is being combed Monday by Sheriff Greek Rice and his deputies for a negro who Saturday night attacked Mrs. Edwin Foster near Jonestown, Miss., inflicting painful, but not serious injuries on the white woman.

APR 14 1942

According to the Coahoma officers, Mrs. Foster and her eight-year-old daughter were returning home from Jonestown on the paved highway about 8 o'clock when they noticed a negro was following them. The woman was thrown to the ground, officers said, and when she screamed for help her face was pushed into the mud along the highway. She was beaten by the negro, and one side of her face badly scratched.

The eight-year-old daughter made a heroic effort to free her mother and struck the negro with a flashlight until it was grabbed from her hand by the negro.

Alec Hill, negro, and his wife, hearing Mrs. Foster's screams, started to the rescue. The assailant fled.

APR 14 1942

Officers said the description of the negro tallied with that of the assailant of Mrs. William Young at Sherard about a week ago. Mrs. Young was struck in the head by a negro who made his escape.

6949

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

RE-ENACTS ATTACK ON RACE GIRL IN ALLEY; CONFESSES

JAN 17 1942

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 15—"I made a mistake. I haven't make a plea for mercy. I feel that a person should be punished for what he has done. I am back and ready to take what is coming. All I want to do is to tell my wife how to raise our little boy so that he won't make the same mistake I did."

Thus 29-year-old Buddy Cole, who left a wife and an 18 months old son on a farm near Sikeston, Mo., summarized his actions on the night of December 19 when he beat and choked to death Geraldine Brookfield, seven-year-old newsgirl daughter of one of the city's largest race newspaper distributors and barbers, in an unsuccessful attempt to ravish her in an alley just a few steps from the busy market—Jefferson intersection.

Cole, taken to the alley early Sunday afternoon prior to the signing of a confession, immediately walked to the scene of the crime, enacted the events and within a few minutes was whisked away as a large crowd sensing new developments gathered at the mouth of the alley. Present at the time and witnessing the confession were assistant circuit attorney James W. Connor, who will ask for the gas chamber penalty, Nathaniel A. Sweets, publisher of the American, C. W. Roberts, president of the Funeral Directors Association, E. N. Davis of the Courier and American, special officers Marvin Lower, Curtis Underwood, James Taylor and Oliver Middlebrooks and Patrolman Jesse Gray of the ninth district, the latter three being race officers.

The arrest of cole by Sheriff Hooker at Bells, Tenn., through some fine work by Detective Creston Nance and others Friday morning ended one of the most intensive man hunts in recent annals as Captain Wetzel and other ninth district officers as well as other police worked unceasingly for the apprehension of the criminal.

In his confession readily made in the presence of officers and newspaper men Cole told how he had worked at the railroad "Y" for the past few months and how, that evening, after leaving work, he stopped, got some wine and his laundry, went home dressed, drank some more and then left his room, just at the mouth of the alley between Market and Lawton on Jefferson about 8 o'clock.

On the street he met the little Brookfield girl who asked him to buy a paper, an orange colored paper (Courier) Cole said he told the girl he didn't want to buy a paper but that a lady living up the alley did. He admitted that the girl unwittingly fell for his ruse to get her to go up the alley to comply with his lustful desires. Halfway up the alley he pointed to the house where the sale could supposedly be made. When he hit her and grabbed her around the neck there was no outcry, apparently she was already dead or knocked cold as she didn't struggle.

JAN 17 1942

The approaching steps of a woman coming up the alley caused him to throw her over on an ash pile and walk down the alley to a tavern where he purchased more wine. It was while drinking this wine in the tavern that he noticed blood on his hand. He washed up and then went to another tavern where he had some beer with a woman. Then to the railroad "Y" where he slept in the basement the rest of the night getting up in time to start his work there at 6 o'clock Saturday morning.

Coincidentally, he quit work at 8 o'clock that morning just about the time the girl's lifeless body was found, telling a fellow worker that he was going to East St. Louis, Ill., for a better paying job. Crossing the river on a bus, he finally boarded a freight for Sikeston, hoping to see his wife. That Saturday night was spent in a barn near the farm where his wife and baby lived. But Cole was frightened. He caught a freight for Jackson, Tenn., going from there to Nearby Bells, Tenn., where he stayed with relatives until on the morning of January 9, when as he was on his way to tell a white man that he would make a crop for him, he was picked up by the sheriff.

JAN 17 1942

Officer Oliver Middlebrooks, veteran ninth district plainclothesman, left Friday night for Tennessee, returning Saturday night with his prisoner.

Death is the penalty the state is asking in this heinous crime against a little girl who was liked by all and who felt that there was only goodness in the many persons, including hundreds of railroad men from all parts of the country, who not only purchased papers from her and her little sisters and brothers, but often gave them tips.

6950

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

N. J. Police Hunt Assault Suspect

New Jersey State police last night were requested by Washington authorities to search for a 25-year-old Negro identified as the assailant of a 20-year-old War Production Board stenographer Thursday morning.

The alarm was sent out after police learned the suspect has a sister living in the State and that he visits her frequently.

The stenographer was attacked in her bedroom in the 3500 block Warder Street Northwest, but managed to fight off the man by pushing an electric fan into his face. She also struck him over the head with a chair.

37L-1942
The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Scottsboro Boy Here Gets Raw Deal Again

By Eugene Gordon

There is no doubt about it: the court and the newspapers did conspire to brand Willie Roberson as hopelessly bad in his recent brush with the law.

The 21-year-old Roberson, member of the quartet of Scottsboro boys released from the Alabama prison five years ago this month—after six years of bitter struggle by hands of oppression—was convicted of disorderly conduct two weeks ago before Magistrate Thomas H. Cullen, Jr., in the Bay Ridge Court, Brooklyn. The complaint had charged him with "annoying" Pauline Freedman, of 977 Herkimer St., in a BMT subway car.

Roberson put in a vigorous plea of innocence. Nevertheless, he was found guilty. Magistrate Robert F. Mahoney yesterday senteneed him to 90 days at Rikers Island.

Roberson said on the witness stand that he might have brushed against Miss Freedman in the train. He insisted, in court, as he said he had insisted to her on the train, that he had neither intention nor desire to "get fresh" with her. He later told this to his lawyer, Solon B. Hanft, of 26 Court St., B'klyn, after the woman accused him of trying to "get fresh."

Roberson was arrested as he awaited a bus. He was searched. His wallet yielded the information that he was a "Scottsboro boy," for it contained a photograph of the four freed youths taken with Samuel S. Leibowitz. Leibowitz, now a county judge, had been their attorney.

Roberson charged on the stand that the arresting policeman slanderously said:

"You got away with it at Scottsboro but you won't get away with it here."

From that moment on the court and the press made the most of the Scottsboro angle trying to use it to discredit the fight for the five boys still in prison. The technique of most of the newspapers—the Brooklyn Eagle being especially notorious—was this: Those fellows are all bad and all ought to be in prison. The four who were freed oughtn't to have been freed. Let's send this one back where he came from.

Mr. Hanft said yesterday that the law is at fault. He said that under the law the offense might bring a sentence for disorderly conduct while the defendant would not necessarily be found guilty of the offense charged in the complaint. The evidence itself, Mr. Hanft declared, had been "contradictory and conflicting." He added:

"It is my opinion that if Willie Roberson were not a colored boy he wouldn't have been in court in the first place."

The attorney was asked whether, in his opinion, the court had made capital of the fact that Roberson was a "Scottsboro boy." While not answering that question directly, he admitted that "unusual interest" had been shown by the court and court attaches in the Scottsboro angle. And not to the defendant's benefit, either.

Everything that was said by Magistrate Cullen and by witnesses—the woman's unprintable testimony, so fantastic as to become immediately incredible to any unbiased listener, the judge's exaggerated assertion that this was "one of the worst complaints I ever saw against any man," the policemen's obviously lurid tales—everything was designed to prove that the Scottsboro boys deserved what they got and that those who were freed should still be in prison.

Willie Roberson's sentence and conviction, small in itself, is symbolical of Negro oppression throughout the country. It should be a symbol also for renewed efforts to free the remaining youths from that Alabama prison, as well as to secure justice and immediate freedom for Willie Roberson.

NEW YORK

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala

Scottsboro Boy Another State's Problem Now

Willie Roberson Accosts White Woman, Lands In Brooklyn Jail

NEW YORK, July 9.—(AP)—Willie Robinson, a young negro identified by his attorney as Willie Roberson, one of the defendants in the famous "Scottsboro case," is being held in a Brooklyn jail for sentence on charges he molested a white woman.

Roberson was convicted Tuesday of disorderly conduct after the woman testified that he had accosted her in a subway and later followed her for a block demanding intimacies.

His attorney, Solon B. Hanft, said that Roberson, a doorman, had been drinking and brushed against the woman as they were leaving the subway, but denied making any overtures.

Roberson, who faces a possible maximum sentence of six months imprisonment, acknowledged when questioned by Magistrate Thomas H. Cullen, Jr., at his arraignment on June 30 that he had been a defendant in the Scottsboro case. This was confirmed today by Hanft.

The Scottsboro case, subsequently fought before State and Federal tribunals to the U. S. Supreme Court, began with the arrest of nine young negroes at Paint Rock, Ala., in 1931 on charges of attacking two young white girls on a freight train.

The case a decade ago was a cause celebre, stirring widespread controversy among those who asserted the negroes were condemned by race prejudice.

Roberson contended he had not been in the same freight car with the other negroes at the time of the attacks. Eventually one of the defendants was executed, four received long prison terms and four, including Roberson, were acquitted.

Their counsel, Samuel Liebowitz, now a Brooklyn judge, brought the four acquitted to New York. Roberson, the name by which Hanft said his client now is known, said at his arraignment that his wife had been working as a maid in the home of a relative of Judge Liebowitz.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

'SCOTTSBORO CASE' MAN IS SENTENCED

NEW YORK, July 13—(AP)—Willie Robinson, identified by his attorney as Willie Roberson, one of the Negro "Scottsboro boys" accused of attacking two women on an Alabama freight train more than 10 years ago, was sentenced to 90 days in jail Monday on conviction of molesting a young white woman in Brooklyn.

Roberson was one of four defendants freed in 1937 after the cases had been in the courts more than six years.

Sentence was passed by Magistrate Robert F. Mahoney in Bay Ridge Court following conviction on a disorderly conduct charge June 30.

Robinson was accused of annoying the woman on a subway car and later following her off the train.

"This complaint is one of the worst I have ever read," commented the court.

"This boy was born and reared in ignorance and poverty," pleaded the clergyman. "I understand he was drunk and got off in bad company."

"The case has been tried," said the court. In passing sentence, he remarked:

"The women of this city must be able to feel safe on the streets and subways at all times. We of the courts must help the city to protect all woman. Today, when women are employed by the Army and the Navy, and in many defense industries, they are out at all hours of the night in connection with their duties. We must see to it that they are not subject to any annoyances."

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

SCOTTSBORO FIGURE GETS 90 DAYS HERE

Clergyman Urges Leniency for Annoyer of Woman

Willie Roberson, one of the defendants in the Scottsboro case who was freed five years ago this month, and who was convicted last Tuesday of annoying a woman on a BMT subway, was sentenced yesterday to ninety days in the workhouse by Magistrate Robert F. Mahoney in Bay Ridge Court.

Roberson, who age was given as 23 when he arrived here with his three co-defendants under the guardianship of Samuel S. Leibowitz on July 26, 1937, was vague as to his exact birthday and was booked under the name Robinson.

Pleas for leniency were made yesterday by Solon B. Hanft, defense counsel, and the Rev. Thomas S. Harten, pastor of Holy Trinity Baptist Church, Brooklyn. Mr. Hanft said testimony at the trial before Magistrate James A. Blanchfield had been exaggerated. The clergyman recalled that he had taken the defendant into his home following his arrival from Alabama.

"I taught him Christ and I had him baptized," the minister said.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

"Scottsboro Boy" In Trouble Again

NEW YORK.—(SNS)—Willie Roberson, one of the nine Scottsboro boys and 1 of 4 who was finally freed by the state of Alabama after their cases had been in the courts nearly seven years, Friday was reported in jail awaiting sentence on charges of annoying a white woman.

Four Youths Held in Rape

Four Negroes, charged with beating Charles Coleman, 27, and raping his sister, Anna, 24, of 202 W. 108th St., on a Lenox Ave. rooftop Saturday night, will appear for hearing in Felony Court tomorrow.

The four were captured by police after a rooftop chase. Bail was set at $7500 each. porters of the four arrests and added:

Police Commissioner Valentine told re- "Others are expected."

A dozen Negroes were said to have participated in the attack.

Valentine at the same time revealed that 20 additional patrolmen have been working special night tours in the E. 104th St. Precinct; 17 in the W. 123d St. Precinct, and 17 in the W. 135th St. Precinct, for several months.

Besides these, extra radio patrol cars have been cruising in these precincts during the 4 p.m. to midnight tour, and eight plain-clothes men have been doing night duty in the area, he said. A dozen additional patrol men will be put on special duty Saturday nights, he announced.

6951

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

12-Man 'Rape' Case Just Another Smear

AUG 29 1942

Extra

The infamous and highly sensational "Twelve-Man Rape Case" has blown up in the faces of the police of Harlem and the daily press of New York City. Monday morning and afternoon, the dailies blasted away at Harlem for its 12 criminals who "assaulted" Charles Coleman and his sister, both white. Police of the 32d police precinct (W 135 st station) lent willing collaboration in this latest smearing of Harlem, by failing to instruct the press that the Coleman fellow and his sister were booked at Harlem hospital at daybreak Sunday, as merely "alleging" criminal assault. The veriest novice in newspaper work could have checked the story in routine manner and would have discovered the Colemans' story did not stand up. The facts:

● Coleman and his sister are well known in certain Harlem circles,

● the nite of the attack, they had attended a rather gay party in the apartment of Jesse Livingstone, 49 W 133 st. Each had been drinking freely and, according to guests present, Anna and her brother were both feeling "good" as they left the party in company with their host who accompanied them to the corner of 134 st and Lenox ave to wait for a bus. (No one has yet explained how the trio [illegible] to catch a bus on that corner [illegible] from 132 st to 135 st.)

● residents in the house where the attack took place heard outcries, called police. Officer George Dickerson assisted in arresting four men who took part in the attack, according to police.

● brother and sister were taken to Harlem hospital in an ambulance, each without clothing but with nondescript rags wrapped around their bodies. Each had been badly beaten about the face. Anna was treated in the emergency ward, placed on a stretcher and allowed to recover from her dazed condition. An ambulance backed up to the ward, to take her and her brother to their home. The driver returned an hour later, with both Colemans still in his vehicle. Disgustedly, he told of how he had been unable to get rid of the pair, of how he had driven them to the address they had given, that they were refused admittance, that he had taken them to other addresses but that no one would take them in. He received [illegible] to take them out again, to another hospital or to a police precinct if he was unable to get rid of them in any other way,

● in the meantime, the receiving physician at Harlem, a Dr. Good, had informed Officer Dickerson that after examining Coleman and his sister, that he was listing their rape charges as "alleged." (It is impossible for a woman to be raped by several men without visible signs being readily apparent.)

● a friend, John Lee, a writer, 424 W 154 st, intervened in the case, asked the hospital to readmit them. The girl is now back at Harlem hospital. The brother is [illegible] W 108 st. Lee has been feeding them since the trouble, as both are without funds, altho the New York Post "informed" its readers that the pair had visited Harlem to "look up an old servant of theirs."

AUG 29 1942

● interviewed at HH by a PV reporter Tuesday, Anna said that a *Daily News* fotog had tried to get a pic of her, had told her that his paper was conducting a campaign against Harlem crime, calling it "these notorious happenings in Harlem." (Ed note: the *News* has about 70,000 daily circulation in notorious Harlem.)

● brother and sister have repeatedly made conflicting stories about the attack. There is no doubt that both were badly beaten about the face. Other facts in the story remain open for later investigation and court evidence, with the case up in Felony Court this Wednesday morning.

AUG 29 1942

● investigation by Chief Deputy Inspector Daniel Curtayne has already indicated that the rape story will be proved completely false, that the Colemans did not appear in court when charges were brought against the four Negroes held, that police may prefer charges against brother and sister if current facts stand up during the Felony Court proceedings,

● with the "alleged" rape booking at HH, with police records proving that the story was a phony, newspapers had no excuse to blast away with their "Twelve-Man Rape case," unless their intent was merely another smear for Harlem. Even PM, liberal daily, got off base and followed the "axis line" of the other papers by reporting the story as authentic, and permitting Albert Deutsch to jump off the deep end with a friendly analysis of the "crime" and a sociological treatise on Harlem and its economic drawbacks,

● the Hearst press for once kept its nose clean. The *Mirror* reported the story in routine fashion, omitting the usual Hearstian fantasies; the *Journal-American* skipped the story completely, its reporters evidently having discovered the phony aspects. The accompanying pasteup of newspaper clips tells its own story. Howard's peglerized *World-Telegram* turned in the lousiest job of all, as witnessed by its three-column headline lie—JLC.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

SIX SEIZED IN HARLEM IN ATTACK ON WOMAN

AUG 20 1942

Youths Accused of Belonging to Gang of Muggers

Detectives patrolling the Harlem area yesterday arrested six Negro youths charged with being members of a gang of thirteen muggers who attacked Ann Coleman and her brother, Charles, Sunday on the roof of a tenement at 567 Lenox Avenue. Miss Coleman, who lives at 202 West 108th Street, is still in Harlem Hospital after being criminally attacked by a number of the muggers. Three of the gang have not been caught. The police made four arrests the night of the crime.

AUG 20 1942

Those arrested yesterday are Edward Griffin, 16 years old, of 180 West 135th Street; Carroll Hall, 19, of 452 St. Nicholas Avenue; William Brown, 20, of 86 West 134th Street; Thomas Alonzo, 16, of 110 West 134th Street; John Reid, 20, of 61 West 133d Street, and Earl Long, 16, of 3 West 135th Street.

Miss Coleman and her brother were waiting for a bus when two of the gang snatched her purse. Mr. Coleman chased the youths to the Lenox Avenue tenement and followed them to the roof, where he was beaten by the gang. When her brother failed to return to the street Miss Coleman went to the roof, where she was beaten and raped.

Seized Nurse Battles, Routs Park Attacker

World-Telegram
N.Y.
SEP 9 - 1942

An attempted rape in Central Park early today was foiled by a spirited fight on the part of a woman who shouted an alarm and was climaxed by a chase in which the park rang with gunfire.

The woman, a registered nurse whose name the World-Telegram is withholding, was walking home along the park side of Central Park West about 1:45 a. m. and as she passed the vehicular entrance at 90th St. she was seized from behind.

SEP 9 - 1942

A hand clamped over her mouth, an arm tightened around her throat and a voice warned her she would be killed if she struggled or cried out. She told police she was dragged into the park and thrown to the ground under some shrubbery.

Disregarding the warnings, the nurse screamed as loud as she could with her mouth stifled and fought with all her strength. She saw that her assailant was a young Negro and despite his repeated warnings she continued to fight.

SEP 9 - 1942

Patrolman Brian McDermott, on special park detail, passing near the scene, heard her muffled screams and started toward them through the bushes. The sound of his approach frightened the Negro, who leaped to his feet and ran.

When his shouts to halt went unheeded the policeman opened fire. The Negro leaped the park wall to the street where, observing the approach of a radio car called by a cab driver who had seen the woman dragged into the park, he reversed himself and leaped back.

Patrolmen George Scharnikow and Edward Murphy, of the W. 100th St. station, joined Patrolman McDermott in the pursuit, each firing several shots and awakening residents of the exclusive apartment houses near the park.

Finding the Negro gaining, the radio policemen returned to their car and pursued him over the park lawns in the vehicle. In the darkness the Negro, who was said to be about 24 and about five feet 10 inches tall, escaped.

Police believed they may have hit him and notified all city hospitals to be on the lookout for a wounded Negro. The woman, suffering from bruises, scratches and shock, was treated at Reconstruction Hospital and sent home.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

10 NEGROES HELD IN RAPE ATTACK ON N. Y. WOMAN

AUG 20 1942

AUG 20 1942

New York, Aug. 19 (AP).—A young white woman charged from her hospital bed today that a Negro stood guard with an open knife while other Negroes attacked her. Ten have been charged with rape in the case.

Questioned at police lineup today, Earl Long, 16 years old, one of the prisoners, said: "Sure, I raped her."

Asked by Inspector Joseph Donovan how many other women he had raped, he replied: "I couldn't begin to count them all."

Long accused Willie Brown, 20, of standing guard with the knife as did the young woman, when six of the prisoners were taken to Harlem hospital. She identified two others as her first assailants. She was seized by a Negro gang on a Harlem tenement roof when she ran to aid her brother, who was being beaten after he had followed two young Negroes who had snatched her purse.

37L-1942

NEW YORK

6952.

Mothers of 6 Indicted

Daily Worker

Negro Youth Seek Justice

N.Y.N.Y.

By A. W. Berry

Sunday's New York Times, following last Friday's Daily News, sought to make the "crime" smear stick by reporting a series of acts of violence by Negroes.

SEP 1 - 1942

The Times erroneously said that six boys arrested in connection with the Harlem "rooftop case" were indicted for "rape." But "forgot" to mention that original claims of the police and the press were shattered by the release of four of the victims last Friday in Felony Court on the basis of "No Bills" returned by the Grand Jury.

Two of the six boys now held could not be identified according to statements issued by Ann and Charles Coleman, the complainants. They are George Barrett and Thomas Mitchell.

In court last Friday the mothers of the six boys, tearful at their indictment, were staunch in the belief that their sons would be freed. Each mother told briefly the life and activities of the boys.

ARRESTED AT WORK

George Barrett, charged with "rape and assault," was employed in a rotisserie located at 468 Lenox Ave. At the time of the alleged assault he was on duty, working the shift from 7 P.M. to 4 A.M. According to an investigation made by this writer George had gone across the street to 467 Lenox Ave. to deliver dishes and was arrested when he came out of the building. His pretty, 18-year-old wife, Gladys, was in court and together with his attorney, George E. Wanderman, expressed confidence in ultimate freedom.

SEP 1 - 1942

Mrs. Victoria Brown, mother of Willie Brown, said in court that her son, the oldest of six children, had been looking for work. Mrs. Brown produced a birth certificate issued in New York City to prove that her son was only 17. He was born a half block from the scene of the alleged crime at 15 W. 133rd St. As did most of the arrested youths he attended P.S. 89 and later went to New York Vocational High. Willie's father is a stevedore earning $30 a week for a family of eight.

Earl Long's mother, Mrs. Maggie Long, wept as she spoke.

"Earl has been sickly ever since he was born. He has been going to a doctor. But he never bothered anybody," she sobbed. Earl is charged with "rape, sodomy and assault." Mrs. Long is a superintendant in the building where she lives at 3 W. 135th St. Earl is her only child.

SEP 1 - 1942

WAS VISITING FRIEND

John Reid, a tall, handsome lad of 20, is charged with "rape and assault." His mother, was accompanied by his girl friend, a Miss Eliz...h Drayton who lives at 67 W. ...th St. "John was at my house at the time all this was supposed to be going on," said Miss Drayton.

37L-NY

"And I know that he couldn't have been on that roof, because I went and got him from her house and brought him home, myself," Mrs. Reid put in. Reid was employed in the same Rottisserie as Barrett at the time of the arrest.

Edward Griffin, the 16-year-old boy charged with grand larceny, was brought to court from a Bellevue hospital cot. His mother, Mrs. Mary Jane Griffin, told of his having been kicked while playing football and has been in feeble health since that time.

"Edward worked for the United Clasp Co., at 17 E. 17th Street," said Mrs. Griffin, "and I don't know why he should try to steal a pocket book. Edward was a good boy and never gave me any trouble." Mrs. Griffin lives at 889 Stebbins Avenue, Bronx.

Mrs. Elizabeth Mitchell, mother of Thomas Mitchell, charged with "rape and assault," said that she was the mother of nine—eight boys and a girl. "They're all good children and I know that Thomas couldn't do such a thing." Thomas is reported to have been with Barrett when he went to return the dishes to the apartment at 467 Lenox Avenue, and just as Barrett he was arrested just as he was leaving the building. Mrs. Mitchell is also the superintendent in her building at 92 W. 134th St.

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

Brother Says He Could Not See Ruffians

AUG 22 1942

Girl Is Recovering From Assault Which Doctor Calls 'Amazing'

AUG 22 1942

BY CARL DUNBAR LAWRNECE

Despite daily newspaper reports that "a white girl and her brother were attacked by 12 colored men last Saturday night," and the fact that four young Harlemites were arrested and booked as suspects, the white man involved told the Star-News Wednesday:

"I wouldn't be able to identify anybody because it was too dark on that roof."

The victims, 27-year-old Charles Coleman and his sister, Ann, 24, both of 202 W. 108th St., were accosted by a group of youths at 133d St. and Lenox Ave. at 2:30 A. M. last Sunday a few minutes after they had left a party in the apartment of Jesse Livingston, 49 W. 133d St., Coleman said.

Miss Coleman, well known to Sugar Hill's safe society, was still confined to Harlem Hospital Wednesday when William Evans, 21, 79 W. 131st St.; George Barrett, 19, 472 Lenox Ave.; Tom Mitchell, 20, 92 W. 134th St., and Ernest Thompson, 23, 246 W. 129th St., were arraigned in Felony Court after being held in $7,500 bail each by Magistrate Raphael Murphy.

SMEAR CAMPAIGN?

The youths' court appearance came as a result of publicity on the part of the daily press, PM, New York Post and the Daily Worker excepted, which carried stories, prominently displayed, allegedly describing how the young woman victim was criminally assaulted by "twelve colored men" on a roof at 467 Lenox Ave., after one of the suspects had snatched her purse.

AUG 22 1942

Community leaders, incensed for several months over the fact that some daily newspapers are apparently trying to label Harlem as the gathering place for the city's criminals, were quick to point out that the smear campaign was still on.

Seemingly concerned over what his Harlem friends might think, as a result of all the publicity, Coleman visited the Star-News of his own volition, and, after expressing the hope that his assailants be apprehended, emphasized the necessity of the police catching the right men.

"My injuries aren't serious," he said, "and I think my sister will be all right within a few days, but I'd be hurt even more if I thought the police were trying to pin this thing on some innocent fellows."

AUG 22 1942

When the attack occurred, Coleman and his sister were waiting for a Lenox Ave. bus. Two youths strolled past, he said, and one of them grabbed Miss Coleman's purse and dashed into a hallway nearby.

Coleman followed them to a roof, he added, and three of them jumped on him.

When his sister arrived on the scene, presumably to aid her brother, she found Charles with half of his clothing torn off, resisting the attempt of one hoodlum who was trying to commit an act of perversion.

She yelled at her brother's attackers to stop, Coleman said. Some of the youths left him and ran toward her. "There were at least eight of them (the Daily News said twelve) around her," the victim revealed, "and they all raped her."

Asked about how long it took the attackers to assault his sister criminally, Coleman replied that it took them about fifteen minutes, an amazingly short time for such a mass assault, a well-known Harlem doctor said later.

Coleman also said the Daily News reporter asked him to "cooperate with us on this thing because these n——rs are trying to run New York and it's up to young fellows like us to stop them."

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

Red-Haired Negro Accused by Three As Rapist-Robber

Washington Heights Couple Identifies Man by Voice

For the last three months a rapist has been spreading terror on Washington Heights, and today police thought they had him.

The man they had was John Martin, 26, a red-haired Negro, who appeared this morning in the lineup charged with assault, robbery and rape. He denied all the charges, but police said he had confessed earlier at the W. 152nd St. station house.

Martin was arrested on the complaint of Mary McDonnell, 23, of 464 W. 162nd St., and John Heim, 25, 603 W. 140th St. The pair were sitting in an automobile in front of Miss McDonnell's home after returning from a party early Sunday, when they were accosted by a Negro.

Couple Rout Him.

He was husky and he wore a black handkerchief over his face with slit cut through so he could see. He ordered them to open the car under threat of shooting and then ordered the girl into the back seat.

DEC 14 1942

The girl fought, kicking and scrtaching madly, and Heim pitched in, putting the would-be rapist to rout. After he disappeared the couple called police.

Detectives Thomas Catterson and William Robinson of the W. 152nd St. station cruised through the neighborhood looking for suspects. Some time later—police did not give the hour exactly—Martin was picked up at 142nd St. and Hamilton Ave., not far from his home at 468 W. 142nd St. Police said they found on him the black mask and an imitation gun.

Identified by Victim.

Miss McDonnell and Heim told police they recognized his voice. He was also identified by Nellie Reader, 28, Negro, of 54 Hamilton Terrace, as the man who raped her on the night of Dec. 9.

Miss Reader said that Martin, a civilian employee at a nearby army camp, had approached her on the street, showed a gun, forced her to the roof of 310 Convent Ave., raped her there and then demanded money.

DEC 14 1942

Then, she said, she told him she had no money with her, but had some at home. He took her home, she said, demanding silence as they went through her apartment

introduced him to whom she lives, gave him $50 in e said, and then he left.

371-1942

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

NORTH CAROLINA

Rape Charge Exploded, Youth Gets Five Years In Prison

FEB 7 - 1942

ROXBORO, N. C. — Cy Winstead, 22-year old Person County youth who was almost lynched last August while being held in the Person County jail on a charge of rape on a white girl, last week was sentenced to from two-and-a-half, to five years in State's Prison. Sentence was imposed by Judge R. Hunt Parker after the defendant had changed his plea of not guilty of rape, to guilty of assault with intent to commit rape.

Winstead changed his plea upon the advice of counsel when it appeared that he might be found guilty of the more serious charge by the jury which would have made a sentence of life imprisonment or death in the gas chamber mandatory. FEB 7 - 1942

The accused youth almost became a victim of mob violence last summer while being held in the Person County jail. A mob of several hundred whites converged upon the jail intent upon taking the prisoner, but were halted by the courageous action of the local sheriff.

The incident brought forth strong condemnation from Governor Broughton who ordered a thorough investigation by the State Bureau of Investigation. The probe resulted in the subsequent arrest of ten white men alleged to have been the ringleaders in the mob, on charges of "unlawful assembly." FEB 7 - 1942

COURTROOM CROWDED

A crowded courtroom gasped last week as evidence was introduced to show that the prosecuting witness, Pauline Dunn, at no time accused Winstead of raping her, that the plaintiff's brother, Charles Dunn, discovered the pair in an intimate embrace on his farm and notified the county sheriff, that several young white men had been intimate with the prosecuting witness, that two examining physicians found no evidence of rape when they examined the girl, and that Winstead, himself, was arrested at the home of the girl eating watermelon with a group of persons including the plaintiff herself.

It was also brought out, after the defendant was sentenced, that young Winstead was confined in the Durham County jail at night and transported to Roxboro each day during the trial in an attempt to avoid any recurrence of the "unlawful assembly" incident. FEB 7 - 1942

NO EVIDENCE OF RAPE

The two physicians called by the defense testified that they examined the girl at her home and found no scars, scratches, bruises, or other evidences of any scuffle or force having been used on her.

A young white man told the court that he had been intimate with the prosecuting witness as had also a number of other young white men he knew.

Eight well known white farmers also testified as to the good character of the defendant. Winstead, himself, did not take the witness stand. Cooper Hall of Burlington represented the accused youth.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Extradition Fight Losf

Man Returned to North Carolina To Face Trial

WASHINGTON. — (ANP) — Climaxing a fight covering a period of a year, the case of William Mason Wellman, 23, was decided against him and the defendant returned to North Carolina to face a rape charge preferred by a 73-year-old white woman.

On May 27, 1941 Justice F. Wilkinson Letts ordered the man turned over to Sheriff John W. Moore, of Statesville, N. C., but after Defense Attorney Edward Berger a few days later swore out a writ of habeas corpus, Sheriff Moore was ordered to return Wellman here.

At a subsequent hearing, Justice Alan Goldsborough heard testimony from a timekeeper at Fort Belvoir, Va., where Wellman worked to the effect that Wellman was at work at the time of the alleged attack in North Carolina.

The testimony was contradicted by the complainant and a Negro woman who identified Wellman as the attacker.

When Justice Goldsborough ruled the conflict could be resolved only by the trial court in North Carolina and ordered Wellman extradited, the case was taken to the court of appeals which upheld Justice Goldsborough.

Leon Ransome, general counsel for the N.A.A.C.P., participated in the defense before the appeals court. Wellman was turned over to the United States marshall for delivery to the North Carolina authorities.

Man Returned To North Carolina On Rape Charge

The Informer
Houston, Tex

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AUG 15 1942

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AUG 15 1942

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AUG 15 1942

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STAY THE EXECUTION!

6953

ANOTHER Scottsboro faces the people of America. But unless you who read this take action today, this new Scottsboro will end far more tragically. For William Wellman, Negro worker of North Carolina, is scheduled to die Friday, the day after tomorrow, for an alleged rape he could not have committed. Daily Worker

The documentary evidence that he was working on a job 400 miles away at the moment the crime was supposed to have been committed, including a company payroll and and his pay receipt, is unanswerable. New York, N. Y. 12-16-42

A Scottsboro case at any time is a national calamity. Now, with our nation engaged in a war of national liberation, its consequences can be far more serious. It desecrates the aims for which the anti-facist peoples of the world are fighting this war. It tends to jar national unity and solidarity of the colonial peoples with the United Nations.

The defense has asked Governor Broughton of North Carolina to stay the execution for 60 days to give it time to present its case to him for study and appeal. That request must be reinforced by the people of the nation.

There is no time for hesitation or discussion. We urge every reader to wire Goverhor J. M. Broughton at Raleigh, N. C. Ask in the name of national unity, democracy and fair play that he grant that 60 day stay. Contact every friend and ask him to take similar action. William Wellman must be saved.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Suspect in N.C. Attack Saved

DEC 26 1942

RALEIGH, N.C. — A sixty-day reprieve granted by Gov. J. M. Broughton saved William Wellmon from execution on Friday for a crime committed while he was presumably at work at Fort Belvoir, Va., 350 miles away.

Wellmon, then living in Washington, D.C., was accused of criminally attacking an aged white woman in Iredell County, N.C., on February 11, 1941.

Substantial evidence that he was working on a construction job at the army post near Washington failed to prevent his extradition to this State and his eventual conviction.

An appeal to the North Carolina Governor was made December 14 by Charles Houston, representing both the NAACP and the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties.

Governor Broughton, who acted on the basis of his own investigation, said he found "serious question as to the guilt of the prisoner" and continued:

Mail Call Freed DEC 26 1942

"It is quite obvious that the prisoner could not have been working at Fort Belvoir and receiving and receipting for his pay there during the middle of the day, and to have committed the act of criminal assault at or about 1:30 p.m. of the same day in Iredell County.

DEC 26 1942

"If my present impression of the case should be confirmed during the period (of the reprieve), I should consider it my duty as a matter of justice to release the prisoner."

37L-1942

OHIO

6954

Save 3 Negro Soldiers, NYA Youth Group Pleads

Daily Worker

N.Y. N.Y.

AUG 31 1942

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Aug. 30.—The Youth Council of the National Youth Administration Trainees, here, has appealed to President Roosevelt to "intervene in the case of Corp. Walter Bordenave and Pvts. Richard Adams and Lawrence Mitchell," Negro soldiers facing the electric chair for allegedly assaulting a white woman at Camp Livingston, La., May 9.

A letter to Mrs. Roosevelt has already resulted in a partial investigation of the case and the unearthing of facts favorable to the young men. A white lawyer appointed by the court to defend Bordenave has in the meantime, written to the soldier's mother asking her to hire another attorney, because "it is extremely distasteful, to say the least, for me to have to defend Bordenave, or any other Negro, charged with raping a white girl."

AUG 31 1942

Bordenave told his mother when she saw him at his trial recently that all three were innocent of the charges but that they were tortured into signing a confession. He declared that for three weeks he and his two companions were kept in straight jackets.

AUG 31 1942

The letter of the Youth Council of NYA Trainees reminds the President that "these men are doing their patriotic duty to their country and are willing to make the supreme sacrifice and yet they are sentenced to die without first being given a fair trial." If the execution is carried out, the letter continues, it will cause disunity among the Negro people and give "fuel to fascist propaganda agents" here.

37L-1942

OKLAHOMA

6955

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dismiss Jury In Porter's Sex Case

DEC 26 1942

Frank Rucker, hotel porter, charged with pandering, was released on bond pending a new trial last Wednesday when his trial in district court before Judge Clarence Mills ended in a hung jury.

Rucker was accused of making "dates" for white girls at the hotel where he worked by arranging for them to engage in acts of prostitution with soldiers.

Two of the young women testified he forced them into the acts and also attacked them himself. Rucker admitted serving a term in state prison for a similar offense. He denied the allegations of the women.

6956

37L-1942

SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
February 17, 1942

NEGROES' APPEAL TO U. S. TRIBUNAL

Men Sentenced to Die in '40 at Moncks Corner Trial on Attack Charge

Alpheus Grant and Cyrus Pinckney, two negroes of North Charleston who in October, 1940, were found guilty in Moncks Corner of assaulting with intent to ravish a fifteen-year-old white girl near Yeamans Hall in July, 1940, yesterday appealed to the United States supreme court in Washington from conviction on their charges.

The two men were sentenced to death in the electric chair by Judge Arthur L. Gaston, of Chester. The execution then was set for November 29, 1940, but subsequent appeals through various courts have staved off the final action for more than a year.

Thomas A. Mitchum, young Charleston man, in the jury trial at Moncks Corner, told how he had driven his car to take Herbert Hodge to call on a young woman. They had picked up Hodge's girl friend and she had taken them on to ask a friend of hers who was visiting her brother's home near North Charleston to go out with them.

Mitchum testified that the visiting girl, a fifteen-year-old school girl, had accompanied them to the reservoir of the West Virginia Pulp and Paper company and had sat in the car for half an hour while it drizzled rain.

Hodge and his girl had gotten out of the coupe to walk around, said Mitchum, when suddenly two negroes appeared, one on each side of the car. Mitchum was struck over the head, the girl jumped out of the car and ran but the men caught her and threw her into a waiting machine and drove off. The other couple heard the cries and came back, but not before the other car drove off with the young girl.

County Police Lieutenant Percy W. Hardwicks and C. H. Simmons were cruising about a mile and a half away when the police radio report reached them and they hurried to the scene. They followed the other car and rescued the girl. The negroes fled, but were arrested several days later after a thorough search by county police and Sheriff J. W. Hall, of Berkeley county.

The alleged crime took place in Berkeley county, just across the line from Charleston county.

Grant was also known as Pompey and as Alchrist Grant.

37L-1942

TENNESSEE

6957

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

AUG 14 1942

WHITE WOMAN ASSAULTED

Nashville Resident Says Negro Entered Her Bedroom

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Aug. 13. — (AP)—Lieut. Frank Osborne of the city Police Department said a 31-year-old North Nashville woman reported she was criminally assaulted by a young negro at her home Thursday.

AUG 14 1942

Osborne said the negro reportedly entered the woman's bedroom through a window shortly after the woman's husband left home for work. She told police the negro choked her and then threatened to kill her if she resisted.

37L-1942 Chicago Defender Chicago, Illinois TEXAS

6958

Attempted Rapist To Be Tried

Houston, Tex.

ACCORDING TO INFORMATION, MAN ATTEMPTS TO RAPE 4 YEAR OLD GIRL

BOSTON, Texas — According to information released here, Mott Williams is scheduled for trial Thursday, July 30, on the charge of abducting and attempting to rape a four-year-old girl, Barbara Hibbs. The trial, which was transferred at first to Red River County on a change of venue, and which has been transferred back to Bowie County (the same county in which Texarkana lies, where Willie Vinson was lynched recently) will begin at 9:00 a.m.

It was also learned from the same authority that the judge had appointed three lawyers to defend Williams.

Matt Williams Sentenced To Die For Alleged Rape Of 4-Year-Old

BOSTON, Texas — Matt Williams, 23, was found guilty of a charge of criminally assaulting a four-year-old Texarkana infant last July 3, and sentenced to die in the electric chair. The jury deliberated only 34 minutes. Judge N. L. Dalby pronounced the death sentence.

Texas Rangers who had guarded the defendant throughout the trial to prevent foul play immediately surrounded the doomed man and spirited him away to an unannounced destination.

Williams, who was arrested a few hours after the alleged attack took the stand in his own defense on Friday and testified that the confession was forced from him after police authorities had handcuffed him to a tree and beat him into a state of insensibility.

During the trial deputy sheriffs discovered a long dagger under the shirt of W. L. Hibbs, father of Barbara Hibbs, who was allegedly attacked by Williams. He was relieved of the weapon but no court action was taken against him.

Williams exhibited scars about his body which he said were inflicted by his captors, but rangers stated the scars were caused by handcuffs placed on the defendant after his apprehension.

The trial was marked by a military aspect with Texas Rangers hauling three machine guns, several rifles and tear gas guns into the courtroom to prevent another state lynching.

Recently Willie [illegible] was lynched near here at Texarkana by a mob of lawless whites after he was charged with allegedly attempting to rape a white woman. The state of Texas has had three other lynchings this year.

Carries Dagger To Trial Of Negro Suspect

Defendant Gets Death Penalty; Denies Charge

BOSTON, Texas.—(ANP)— In a courtroom which many say was dominated by the mob spirit, Matt Williams, 23, who is alleged to have assaulted a four-year-old white child, Barbara Hibbs, in Texarkana, July 3, was sentenced to death here Friday evening at 7:22 o'clock. The jury required only 34 minutes to return the death verdict in the district court presided over by Judge N. L. Dalby.

A capacity crowd was on hand Thursday morning as the trial got under way and was excitedly stirred when Ranger Capt. M. T. (Lone Wolf) Gonzales discovered a long dagger on W. L. Hibbs, father of the victim of the alleged assault, a close search having been made of all persons admitted to the courtroom except those who were known to be in there on legitimate court business.

DAGGER IS FOUND

When the dagger was pulled from under his shirt where he had concealed it in hope of not being observed, Hibbs trembled perceptibly but made no statement as to whether he had planned to attack the defendant either in or out of the courtroom. Finding the long knife on Hibbs recalls the Lufkin court-killing case when Matt Flourney was killed in open district court while on trial there last November for a crime which since, in the minds of many, it has been established he did not commit.

The trial got off to a slow start Thursday morning. The second part of the morning session of the first day was taken up in motions by defense attorneys. The jury selected was completed at 11:55, Thursday just five minutes to noon.

An air of indescrible tenseness pervaded the courtroom at all times during the trial of the apparently disinterested defendant. Williams twiddled his fingers nervously while the chief of his defense counsel, W. N. Harkness, presented three motions—all of which were summarilly overruled by Judge Dalby.

CLAIMS FAIR TRAIL

While the accused sat in the courtroom flanked by Texas rangers, Harkness made a dramatic plea in the Negro's behalf, stating to the court what many thought was true, that public sentiment was so strong against the Negro in Bowie county that it was utterly impossible to permit a fair trial. Harkness moved for a change of venue.

Evidently recalling what happened at Texarkana a short while ago when a critically wounded Negro, William Vinson, was abducted from his basement cot in the Texarkana hospital, while groaning and begging for his life, was dragged through the streets of the city and lynched, Sheriff Watts had Williams heavily guarded.

The room in which the defendant was kept was guarded by three machine guns which were grimly conspicuous, and numerous [illegible] and tear gas guns. Eight Texas rangers then stood guard while Sheriff Watts of Bowie county and a guard of deputies and highway officers threw a strong cordon around the courtroom. Other officers were also stationed on the outside of the building.

Some claim that the presence of FBI men in nearby Texarkana who are allegedly making a thorough investigation of the recent Vinson lynching was fresh in the minds of officers and had considerable to do with the heavy guard which was given Williams here in this little Bowie county town.

FORCED TO CONFESS

On Friday, the second day of the tense trial, Matt Williams testified that officers had handcuffed him to a tree and then administered him an unmerciful and terrible beating, as he took the witness stand in his own behalf.

The defendant was placed on the witness stand by the chief of his defense counsel, Harkness, after He had sought vainly to prevent the introduction of the alleged confession of the defendant. Harkness argued against inclusion of the alleged confession, claiming it was not admissable because it had been obtained under duress, threat, intimidation and suffering occasioned by being beaten before the defendant had been taken before a magistrate. Harkness cited how the defendant had been spirited out of Bowie county before even an alleged confession was signed.

Williams testified that he was arrested July 4 by Constable R. R. Taylor; that he was thereafter taken to Texas Ranger Stanley's farm near Clarksville; that he was then handcuffed to a [illegible] and given a terrible beating until he confessed the crime to keep them from killing me.

In support of his statement about being terribly beaten, the defendant exhibited scars on his arms, which he told his defense counsel had been inflicted by the officers who allegedly beat him. Officers denied they beat the defendant.

Meantime, Ranger Capt. M. T. Gonzaulas who Thursday discovered the long dagger on the father of the alleged victim, testified that some of the scars on the Negro's arms could have been caused by the handcuffs which the ranger captain had placed on him while the defendant was in his custody.

Dr. J. R. McGee, New Boston physician, on being subpienaed, examined the defendant in a room adjoining the courtroom. He later testified that in his opinion, the scars were "old ones."

The death sentence meted to Williams for a crime he swears he did not commit stands out in bold relief and sharp contrast to his own testimony as well as that of four other Negro witnesses from nearby Texarkana, who took the witness stand, braved the danger which might ensue from such steps, and courageously testified that they knew Williams was innocent of the crime for which he was being tried.

The four were Arnet Miller, proprietor of the Little Green cafe; Jack Williams, who testified Matt Williams had slept at his home on the night of July 3, having gone there with him from the Little Green Hornet cafe; Ryamer and a Negro girl with whom the defendant kept company who was merely referred to as "Timpie."

Miller the cafe proprietor, testified that the defendant and "Timpie" remained at his place of business until 11:30 o'clock on the night of the alleged attack. Frank Ryamer and Timpie offered corresponding alibis for the defense of the defendant.

WHITE BOY, GIRL EXPLODE 'CRIME' FRAME-UP AGAINST 8 IN HARLEM

Daily Worker
AUG 23 1942

By A. W. BERRY

AUG 23 1942

Charles and Ann Coleman, complainants in the now famous Harlem rape and robbery case, blew the lid off the police attempt to railroad eight Harlem youths to sentences of life imprisonment and death. Charles Coleman, brother of the young woman reportedly robbed and raped in his presence, states that he had been asked by the police if he "*could identify various persons shown us, but I have not been able to identify anyone as having taken part in the incident.*" Mr. Coleman further made known that they were taken to the police station on the night of the reported attack to identify four Negro youths.

AUG 23 1942

Exclusive

"We were unable to do this," continued Mr. Coleman. "The night was a very dark one and I couldn't make out any faces."

AUG 23 1942

Mr. Coleman, a personable, soft-spoken young Irish-American, spoke to this writer at length expressing his concern at the the possibility of innocent Negro youths being victimized in what he recognized as a campaign to "smear the colored race."

HITS RACE HATRED

"I am not prejudiced against anyone because of race, creed or color. I am aware that the social conditions existing in Harlem are responsible for such incidents as have transpired, and I am willing to aid in whatever way and with whatever means I have to assist in wiping out those conditions," he told this writer in the course of the interview.

AUG 23 1942

Later we visited Miss Coleman in the home of her parents. There was visible evidence of her having been severely beaten. She assured us, however, that she was alright except for two black eyes that were rather blood shot at the time of the visit. Miss Coleman stated that she had identified one of the boys as the one who had snatched her pocketbook only after he had re-enacted the incident for her as she lay in a hospital bed.

"Because," she related, "he was able to place the people and describe the movements of that evening I was able to identify him only through his own confession."

"I definitely do not wish anyone implicated who is not guilty," Miss Coleman asserted again and again. "I would therefore identify a man only if I could recall specific"—and she emphasized the word "specific"—"action of the person. I would not trust a general description."

Now the young man whom Miss Coleman says she identified is reportedly not among the eight awaiting a hearing on the 28th of this month. His name is Edward Griffin who gave his address at the time of his arrest as 180 W. 135th St.

The eight defendants who were brought to court last Wednesday are Willie Brown, 86 W. 134th St.; John Reid, 61 W. 133rd St.; Thomas Alanzo, 467 Lenox Ave.; Earl Long, 3 W. 135th St.; George Barrett, 472 Lenox Ave.; Thomas Mitchell, 92 W. 134th St.; William Evans, 79 W. 131st St., and Ernest Thomas, 246 W. 129th St. All were arrested in connection with the reported robbery and attack on Charles and Ann Coleman which began allegedly

(Continued on Page 3)

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH
TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE

White Boy, Girl Expose Frameup

(Continued from Page 1)

on the corner of 133rd St. and Lenox Ave. and continued on the roof of a house at 467 Lenov Ave.

The first four of the eight—all of whom are under 20, two of them being only 16—are charged with rape and face a possible death sentence; the latter four are charged with robbery and can receive a sentence of life imprisonment.

Led by the Daily News, the commercial press practically tried the cases before the public and convicted them in their columns. In addition to convicting the defendants, they also sought to smear the community of Harlem with the stigma of being a "crime center" of the city.

AUG 2 3 1942

The press, indirectly quoting the police, carried stories purporting to show that the complainants had "positively identified four of their assailants."

FRAME-UP HATCHED

Miss Coleman told the Daily Worker that the boy who snatched her purse was "just a kid," but the fellows who attacked her after she and her brother had followed the youngster into the house and up the stairs were older men.

But in the face of this the police have charged four of the boys with robbery and four with rape.

The statements of the brother and sister, upon whose testimony alone a case can be made against the arrested youths, just about exonerates the eight defendants brought to court last Wednesday.

It is now up to the police and the District Attorney to act. And it is up to the people to see that they do act in the interest of justice.

AUG 2 3 1942

The relatives of the arrested boys when seen reported that the boys had been brutally beaten in the police station.

Mrs. Maggie Long, the mother of Earl Long, charged with rape, says that her son was so badly beaten that she hardly recognized him when she saw him.

Mrs. Gladys Barrett reports that her husband, George Barrett, charged with robbery, had holes knocked into his head by the police.

AUG 2 3 1942

Theodosia Reid, the sister of John Reid, charged with rape, reports that he was also beaten.

An independent investigation by the Daily Worker establishes that two of the boys were not on the scene of the alleged crime at the time it was reported to have occurred. In tomorrow's Daily Worker we will say something about these boys, their families and their neighborhood.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Young Woman Charges Crime At Rifle-Point

DECATUR, Ala.—(SNS)—A white youth is scheduled to go on preliminary trial here at nine o'clock Wednesday morning charged with raping a beautiful 23-year-old Decatur Negro high school teacher at the point of a cocked rifle, May 11.

JUN 5 1942

Miss Sadie Mae Gibson, age 23 a product of the public schools of this city, graduate of Alabama A and M. College in 1938, and member of the ASTA, was reportedly criminally attacked and brutally raped by Dan Olinger, white, who gave his age to police as 16, but whose parents claim that he is only 15. The boy is said to have confessed the crime to law officers.

GIVES INTERVIEW

In an interview to the WORLD Monday Miss Gibson said that about 4:30 Monday afternoon, May 11, a white youth, identified as Olinger, as she passed the L. and N. Oakworth office, forced her at the point of a rifle to the side of the cinder road which runs just East of the Decatur Iron and Steel Company, and attacked her. She was on her way from school.

Although there were no known witnesses to the assault which was said to have taken place in a clump of bushes only a few feet from the road, several persons claimed to have seen a white youth with a rifle seated at the side of the road earlier.

JUN 5 1942

A discription of the case indicated that the assault was made at a period when a woman is under the warning of nature. Her story reveals how the youth ignored this, forcing the teacher to yield herself to him.

ARRESTED AT HOME

The youth was arrested at his home three miles North of Hartselle, Alabama by Deputies C. Pitman and C. B. Humphrey and placed in the county jail, charged with rape.

Because of the question of the boy's age, it is not established whether the juvenile or circuit court should have jurisdiction. Correct age of the boy, chief point at issue, has not been legally established.

JUN 5

Under Alabama law, in crimes of rape, a woman's word needs no corroboration. Rape, under this same law, is a capital offense punishable by death in the electric chair.

Miss Gibson has been a teacher in the high school here four years and is a member of the Shiloh Baptist Church pastored by the Rev. M. C. Gosby.

According to the teacher, Miss Sadie Mae Gibson, who is a graduate of A. and M. institute and a member of the Shiloh Baptist church and choir, on her way home from school on the afternoon of the happening, the youth pointed a rifle in her back and forced her into a clump of bushes at the side of the road where he attacked her. Witnesses at the preliminary trial, one a 14-year-old white boy, testified that though they had not seen the attack, they had seen the youth with a rifle on the road designated at approximately a half hour before the alleged [illegible].

JUN 13 1942

Some question was raised as to what disposition to make of the case due to the youth of the boy. Under Alabama law, rape is punishable by death in the electric chair. Parents of the boy claim that he is only 15 years old, although officers stated that he is 16. Investigation of his correct age is being made.

The boy was arrested at his home three miles north of Hartsell, Ala., the day following the teacher's report of the attack. Several white witnesses testified that they had seen the boy sell a rifle to an aviation student for $2.25 in a store at Flint. This is reported to be the second case of rape of Negro females in the course of the year.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

WHITE YOUTH HELD IN RAPE OF TEACHER

JUN 13 1942

Denied Bond In Alabama Court; Must Face Grand Jury

DECATUR, Ala.—A white youth, Dan Olinger, is being held without bond to the grand jury session here for the alleged rape at the point of a rifle of a 23-year-old Negro school teacher on Monday, June 1.

The youth was ordered held by Judge J. H. Crow who insisted that the Negroes of Morgan county are as entitled to protection as are the whites.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

WHITE YOUTH GETS 15 YEARS FOR ASSAULT

Jury Deliberates Only Forty Minutes In Record Trial

DECATUR, Ala.—Dan Olinger, a white youth, was convicted for the rape of a 23-year-old colored school teacher and sentenced to 15 years in the state penitentiary in the Morgan County courtroom of Judge A. A. Griffith, Wednesday, June 17. The jury deliberated only 40 minutes before returning its guilty verdict and making the 15 year penalty recommendation.

Melvin Hutson, solicitor for the state, and his associate W. H. Long, asked that the rapist be given the electric chair. Under Alabama law, rape is punishable by death.

The state's prosecutor demanded justice be meted out to the youth. He said all evidence pointed to his guilt and asked the veniremen to picture what would be their attitude if the facts were the other way aroound.

"Suppose the defendat was a Negro guilty of raping a white woman," he said. "You know what would happen. Sentence that boy to the electric chair. He deserves nothing less. What will it profit to save an individual with a principle like that, when there are thousands of men dying on the battlefield for a worthy cause."

While Hutson was asking the death penalty for Olinger the youth hung his head and cried.

During testimony at the trial Miss Sadie Mae Gibson, the teacher employed in the city school system, was the state's main witness. She is a graduate of A. and M. college.

Miss Gibson was on the stand for one hour and thirty-three minutes, and was questioned by Solicitor Hutson ad cross-examined by Atty. Russell Lynee for the defendapt.

the injured woman's story true. Olinger meanwhile had escaped.

Sheriff Pittman said the youth confessed the rape to him on the evening of the crime shortly after he had been picked up as a suspect. Police officials brought the boy who lived in Hartselle here for questioning. Fear of having to pass through the neighborhood where the girl resided was said by police to have influenced Olinger to confess so readily.

JUL 1 1942

Two little newspaper vendors also testified for the state. They said they had seen Olinger sitting on the side of the road with the rifle in his hands early in the afternoon of the assault. Another youngster, J. B. Willingham, 14 year old adolescent, testified he saw Olinger sell the rifle for $2.25 in Flint shortly after the rape had occurred.

Olinger, who was termed an "incorrigible youth" by Solicitor Hutson, succeeded in having trial of the case transferred from juvenile court to the circuit court where possibilities of a stiff sentence were more probable than in a courtroom for juvenile delinquents.

Her testimony revealed she was on her way home from school on the afternoon of May 11, when the rapist sprang upon her and pointed a .22 calibre rifle in her back. She was forced into a clump of bushes she said where the assault occurred.

After her harrowing experience Miss Gibson stated she was able to struggle to a shop yard office of the L. and N. railroad company from where police were notified of the crime.

JUL 1942

City Policemen Terry and Sheriff Pittman corroborated her story on the stand. They told of finding the girl in a highly nervous condition in the railroad yard office, and of going down the tracks to the scene of the attack where they discovered evidence which led them to believe

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Attacker Gets 16-Year Sentence

DECATUR, Ala.—(SNS)—Dan Olinger, a sixteen-year-old white youth, charged with raping a 23 year-old school teacher was given a 16-year prison sentence by a jury that deliberated 40 minutes.

In returning their verdict of guilty, the jury recommended leniency although State Solicitor Melvin Hutson and lawyer W. H. Long had asked for the extreme penalty.

The teacher charged that on May 11 Olinger criminally assaulted her at the point of a rifle.

Judge A. A. Griffith sentenced Olinger to a 16-year prison term June 19.

37m-1942

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

WOMAN, 80, ATTACKED BY ARKANSAS FARMER

Vanndale Man, 28, Parolee, Is Held By Sheriff

WYNNE, Ark., July 5—(AP)—Cross County officers Sunday arrested a Vanndale farmer following an attack upon a white woman, about 80, at her home on the outskirts of Wynne.

Chief Deputy Sheriff H. L. Mitchell said the suspect, who denied the attack, was being held without charge. He said the suspect, Dayton Woolbright, about 28, recently had been paroled from the state penitentiary after serving seven years of an original life sentence assessed in February, 1934, for rape.

Mitchell said the victim gave this account of the attack:

A man appeared at her home between 6 and 7 o'clock Saturday night, asking for change for $1. When she replied she didn't have it, the man knocked the door open and demanded money. She gave him 45 cents. He then seized her, beat her severely with his fists and a stick of wood and assaulted her twice. She called a negro boy to summon officers after her assailant left.

The officer said the woman had been returned to her home after treatment at a Wynne clinic and was expected to recover.

45 cents. He then seized her, beat her severely with his fists and a stick of wood and assaulted her twice. She called a negro boy to summon officers after her assailant left.

The officers said the old woman had been returned to her home after treatment at a Wynne clinic and was expected to recover.

ARKANSAS

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

6962

3 White Men Indicted For Attack On Girl

Two Policemen and Taxi Driver Forced Girl Into Car—Judge Praises Jury for Returning Speedy Indictment in Case.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., July 23.—Two policemen and a taxi driver, all white, were indicted by the grand jury last week for criminal assault on a 19-year-old student at Dunbar high school. The officers were stunned when the all-white jury sitting in the courtroom of Circuit Judge Gus Fulk returned the indictments.

According to the girl she was standing on the corner of 8th and Harrington streets, near the Gospel Temple Baptist Church, when a car containing the three men rolled up and ordered her to get out of the way and using a vile epithet. The quarter refused to move until two of the men identified themselves as being policemen.

TAKEN TO LONELY SPOT

The young lady was going to church and slowly proceeded on her way with the other boys going in an opposite direction. The three occupants of the car drove around the block and caught up with the girl before she arrived at the church door. They then ordered her to get into the car and drove off.

She was taken out to a lonely dark spot near College Station, forced from the car and attacked twice by each of the three men. After the attack the men drove the girl around in North Little Rock for some time and they only allowed her to escape because she promised them she would get another girl and return to the car.

JUDGE PRAISES WHITE JURORS

After escaping the girl reported the incident to Chief of Police Allen and gave him the badge number of the officers. Investigation revealed the badge belonged to Officer L. S. Mullenax, who admitted he was in a car with Officer Dan W. Ellard and C. B. Eddie, Jr. All the men denied the attack but admitted being drunk.

Judge Fulk thanked the jurors for their "courage" in returning the indictments and promised the defendants a speedy, fair and impartial trial but warned they must suffer the penalty if convicted.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Parolee Held In Attack Of 80-Year-Old Woman

WYNNE, ARK., July 5.—(AP)—Cross County officers today arrested a Vanndale farmer following a brutal attack upon a white woman, about 80, at her home on the outskirts of Wynne.

Chief Deputy Sheriff H. L. Mitchell said the suspect, who vigorously denied the attack, was being held without charge. He said the suspect, about 28, recently had been paroled from the State penitentiary after serving seven years of an original life sentence assessed in February, 1934, for rape.

Mitchell said the victim gave this account of the attack:

A man appeared at her home between 6 and 7 o'clock last night, asking for change for $1. When she replied she didn't have it, the man knocked the door open and demanded money. She gave him

6963

6963

Soldier Gets Life In Attack Case

Atlanta Daily World JAN 2 1943

HALIFAX, Bermuda —(ANP) — Pvt. W. Ferrell, white, of the U. S. army has been found guilty of raping Mrs. Susan Olive Packwood, 38-year-old colored Bermudian, and sentenced to life imprisonment by an American court martial, the first one held in this West Indies island now overrun by American soldiers.

37m

After a trial which lasted three days and a half, Ferrell who is a native of South Carolina, was sentenced by the court to be dishonorably discharged from the army, with stoppages of all pay and allowances and to serve imprisonment with hard labor for the rest of his natural life.

The crime took place on the night of October 6, when the accused accosted the victim on the public road, struck her over the eye and drew her into the shrubbery where the offense was committed.

JAN 2 1943

Ferrel, who was the only witness for the defense denied all knowledge of the charge. Eleven witnesses were called by the prosecutor, trial Judge Advocate Capt. Charles Beaudry of the U. S. army. Col. Franklin E. Edgecombe was president of the court martial which included eight other ranking American officers. Capt. Robert L. Sherman was lawyer for the defense.

37m-1942
Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

CALIFORNIA

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

6964

ARMY DESERTER ADMITS SLAYING OF TWO WOMEN

SEP 14 1942

Social Workers' Deaths In Wisconsin Solved By Confession

SEP 14 1942

SANTA MARIA, Calif., Sept. 13—(AP)—A 21-year-old army deserter, Robert T. Bailey, signed a confession Sunday, Deputy District Atty. Thomas Weldon said, admitting he killed two Kenosha, Wis., women social workers last Monday near Tomah, Wis.

Weldon said Bailey ascribed theft of their car and money as his motive, but he steadfastly denied he had criminally attacked his victims.

SEP 14 1942

The nude bodies of the women, Miss Neil John Pietrangeli, 30, and Dorothy Baun, 32, were found Tuesday by the side of a road.

"Bailey has told several conflicting stories of the actual killing," said Weldon, "but I believe the confession he has just signed is true insofar as his admission that he alone shot the women is concerned. At first he claimed a soldier hitchhiker he met in Cincinnati criminally attacked the women. Now he confeses he didn't meet the soldier until after he had killed them."

Confession Related

Weldon said Bailey's confession related, in effect, that he met Miss Pietrangeli and Miss Baun at a street intersection in Madison, Wis., as the former's automobile stopped for a traffic signal. They offered him a ride and the three drove for about 30 minutes when he decided to take their purses and the auto.

He ordered them from Highway 11 onto a side road and after forcing them from the machine instructed them to disrobe and go toward a nearby hill.

SEP 14 1942

Miss Pietrangeli, the story related, told him she intended to notify police. This angered him and he fired an army .45 revolver at her. He said the bullet struck Miss Baun first and that he believed it also penetrated the other woman's body, because they both fell to the ground. He said he then fired three more bullets into their bodies and that when he left them Miss Pietrangeli was dead but Miss Baun was moaning.

Bailey related that he drove to Tomah where he offered a ride to a soldier, taking him as far as Eau Claire, where they arrived at 3 a.m. Tuesday. Going to Le Sueur, Minn., he cashed a check on Miss Pietrangeli's account there, claiming he was her sweetheart and that she had authorized his use of the account.

Two Girls Are Met

Driving to Sioux City, Iowa, Bailey met two 16-year-old girls, Alberta Coon and Pauline Conley. He offered to take them to California and they accepted. At Denver, Colo., he was stopped by a traffic officer while traveling 75 miles an hour, but Bailey said "all he did was to warn me I'd have to slow down."

SEP 14 1942

Weldon said Bailey told him he wanted to come to California and go to Ft. Ord to kill his brother, W. R. Bailey, who, he said, was stationed at that army camp. He held a grudge against his brother, he said, because he had turned him in to a parole officer in Mississippi five years ago.

Bailey, the deputy district attorney said, deserted from the army in July, 1941. He was arrested and sent to Leavenworth Penitentiary. Later he was released to reenter the army and reportedly deserted again from Ft. Bragg, N. C.

Clothing belonging to the two slain women was found in Bailey's car here.

Girls Visit An Aunt

The two girls with whom Bailey came West are at the home of an aunt of Miss Coon, Mrs. Cyril Simmeon, with whom they were visiting when Bailey was arrested.

Simmeon, a former police officer, observed Bailey painting out the white sidewalls on the car he was driving. When Simmeon questioned him he received only evasive answers. Simmeon then called police.

SEP 14 1942

Weldon, describing Bailey as an amiable fellow who is "quite a braggard" and tells a good story, said the youth declared he was not sorry for what he had done.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation holds warrants for Bailey's arrest, charging him with theft of army property and desertion.

Actor 'Bewildered'

Errol Flynn Accused of Raping 17-Year-Old Girl at Party

OCT 17 1942

By the Associated Press

Los Angeles, Oct. 16.—Errol Flynn, swashbuckling film star, surrendered today on a charge of raping a 17-year-old girl at a party and was released under $1,000 bail.

"I'm bewildered," he told reporters. "I can't understand it. I hardly touched the girl."

The complaint, issued by District Attorney John E. Dockweiler, after the county grand jury had failed to indict Flynn yesterday, charged him with raping Betty Hansen, 17, at the Bel Air mansion of Fred McEvoy, wealthy British sportsman, the night of September 27.

She had come here recently from Lincoln, Nebr., to live with a sister, Mrs. Jack Marsden.

"It is obvious," said Dockweiler, "that the grand jurors have not considered the evidence."

Similarly charged and also released on bail were three employes of the studio where Flynn is under contract, Armand Knapp, 18; Morrie Black, 22, and Joseph Geraldi, 20. Dockweiler said they had confessed attacking the Hansen girl after the night of the party.

In California the legally termed age of consent is 18 years. A sexual offense against a girl under that age, regardless of consent, becomes statutory rape, the district attorney's office explained.

OCT 17 1942

Witnesses before the grand jury included Lynne Boyer, blonde singer, and Agnes "Chichi" Toupes, dark-haired dancer.

Juvenile Officer Dorothy Pulas and Police Sergts. Edward Walker and R. W. Bowling said Miss Hansen, who disappeared from her sister's home a month ago and was found by police, told the following story:

OCT 17 1942

"When I left my sister's home I got a job in a drug store. I met Knapp there. He offered to introduce me to Errol Flynn, whom I had always admired on the screen. I asked my boss for time off. He refused to let me go. Knapp told me to quit and come, anyway, that Flynn would get me a job.

"Told Me to Take a Drink"

"With 'Chichi,' Knapp and I went to the McEvoy estate. We were not invited, but they seemed glad to see us. 'Bus' Wiles, Flynn's friend and stunt man, asked us to stay for dinner.

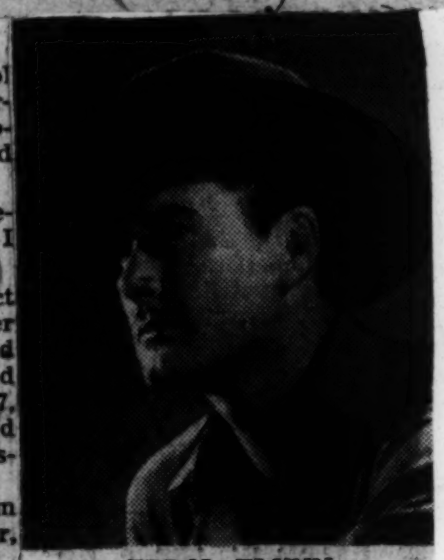
"Knapp went away and came back with a Miss Boyer. We had dinner. Knapp had told me to take a drink, and I did. After dinner, we went into the living room. Flynn began showing me attention. He told me he was very fond of me and would get me a job.

"He asked me to go upstairs with him.

OCT 17 1942

"Flynn disrobed and then assisted me in taking off my clothes.

"I protested against what he did to me then, but I did not struggle very hard. Later we went back downstairs, and he told me he would call me the next night. I waited for three nights, but he never called."



ERROL FLYNN

Ierlee, 17, August 3, 1941, during a weekend trip to Catalina Island on the actor's yacht.

Flynn is scheduled to appear for preliminary hearing Friday on a charge of raping Betty Hansen, 17, movie struck Lincoln, Nebr., girl at a party in Bel Air the night of last September 27.

Deputy District Attorney Thomas W. Cochran said the actor's lawyers plan to surrender him tomorrow on the new charge.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C

Secod Young Girl Charges Rape by Actor Errol Flynn

OCT 22 1942

Los Angeles, Oct. 21 (AP).—A second charge of rape involving a 17-year-old girl was filed today against actor Errol Flynn.

Juvenile Officer Lieut. R. W. Bowling signed a complaint charging that the swashbuckling film idol raped Peggy LaRue Sat-

6965

37m-1942

Birmingham Post
Birmingham, Alabama

GIRL, 16, CHARGES ATTACK BY SOLDIERS

By United Press.

DENVER, July 10—Federal agents today investigated the story of a 16-year-old Iowa girl who said she stayed with two soldiers on a week-long holdup tour of the Mid-West because she wanted to see them "hung" for what they did to her.

Margaret Rollie, missing from her home at Hesper, Ia., for a week, said the soldiers, Pvt. Elmer F. Kuske, 23, formerly of Lakewood, Colo., and Pvt. David Westman, 19, Trinidad, Colo., took her away from her escort and criminally attacked her.

"Then they tried to get rid of me," she was quoted by police. "But I told them I would stay with them until I saw them hang."

Detective Sergeant Leslie Sawyer said Kuske and Westman had confessed they had "walked away from the Army camp" at Fort Sill, Okla., and had admitted several holdups and car thefts in Iowa and Colorado.

37m-1942
Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

CONNECTICUT

6966

Brutal Crime Confessed By 'Teen Age Boy

SEP 16 1942

Girls 7 And 8 Assaulted Then Killed, He Says; Body Of One Is Found

SEP 16 1942

WESTPORT, CONN., Sept. 15.—(AP)—State Police Sergt. George H. Ferris said tonight that a 17-year-old Stamford youth had confessed assaulting and slaying Margaret Lynch, 7, and her sister, Helen, 8, in a wooded section of Bedford Village, N. Y., last night.

Ferris identified the youth as Edward Haight of Wildwood Road, Stamford, only about eight miles from Bedford Center, the home of the two girls.

Questioned here for three hours, Ferris said, Haight was taken back to the Westchester County village by New York officers and Inspector William Schatzman of the Connecticut State Police.

The officer said the youth told questioners he picked the young girls up in a station wagon he stole in Stamford, and rode with them to the lonely spot where he assaulted and slew them.

Haight told investigators he mutilated the bodies of both girls with a knife before assaulting them, Ferris

SEP 16 1942

said.

At the time the police left the state police barracks here for Bedford Center, only the body of Margaret Lynch had been found. Ferris said Haight told them he could lead them to Helen's body, which he said was near Beaver Dam Creek, where three children found the dead younger sister.

State Troopers Charles Flanagan and Edward Waltz captured Haight in his home, Ferris said, and shortly afterward Stamford Town police found the abandoned station wagon which was stolen from a driveway in that town yesterday morning.

SEP 16 1942

37m-1942

D.C.

6967

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

D.C. Iron Worker Held for Jury On Rape Charge

MAR 10 1942

William T. Moore, 32, iron worker of 1328 E Street Southeast, yesterday was ordered held without bond for action of the Prince Georges County grand jury on a charge of having raped a 16-year-old Washington high school girl during the blackout last Tuesday night at Oxon Hill, Md.

Police Court Judge Walter H. Green ordered Moore held after a four-hour hearing at Upper Marlboro, Md. The girl, a part-time worker in a 5 and 10-cent store near her home, said that Moore, whom she had met several months before, offered to drive her home during the blackout. Instead, he drove to a point 3 miles below Oxon Hill, where the alleged attack occurred.

Moore, who is married and has a 3-year-old daughter, admitted to police that he was with the girl but denied the attack.

MAR 10 1942

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Retrial Refused

Ewing Gets 8-24 Years In Rape Case

JUL 1 1942

Orman W. Ewing, 55-year-old former politician, accused of raping a young Government worker, yesterday lost the first phase of his fight for a new trial as Justice James W. Morris sentenced him to 8 to 24 years in prison, denied his motion for a retrial, and refused to release him on bond pending an appeal of the case.

In an impassioned plea for the former Democratic national committeeman, James J. Laughlin, his attorney, said that there were several "substantiated" questions of law that would be put immediately before the United States Court of Appeals. He asked that in view of this, Ewing be freed on bond until the appellate tribunal can review the case.

Ewing was convicted last February, but now claims his attorneys at the trial were incompetent.

Following denial of the motion for a retrial, Ewing consented to immediate sentencing. As he stood before the bar, his wife and daughters rose also from their seats among the spectators. At the counsel table was the defendant's son, Lowell Ewing.

Laughlin said he woul dattempt to place the case before the appellate court today, but requested Ewing's release on the ground that Ewing's advice was needed in preparation of the appeal.

JUL 3 1942

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

FBI Hunts Deserter Accused Of Rape, Robbery and Kidnaping

Called One of Most Dangerous, Ruthless Criminals at Large

By International News Service

OCT 17 1942

A nation-wide hunt was ordered yesterday by J. Edgar Hoover, FBI director, for Irwin Kadens, 32-year-old Army deserter who was best described as a one-man crime factory dealing in kidnaping, rape and robbery.

OCT 17 1942

Hoover, declaring Kadens is "one of the most dangerous and ruthless criminals at large," warned law enforcement officers throughout the Nation to be continually on the alert to apprehend the fugitive.

Among other things, Hoover stated Kadens was responsible for a personally conducted crime wave extending over three States during which he committed kidnaping, criminally attacked four girls, carried out 17 armed robberies and stole 16 automobiles.

According to reports, Kadens began operations on August 18 when he entered the home of a Detroit policeman and stole the officer's gun, complete uniform, badge and handcuffs.

The next day he held up and robbed a Detroit cab driver and stole the cab. Three days later he robbed another Detroit taxi driver of his automobile, only to abandon it later.

OCT 17 1942

His next victims were a couple in a Detroit parking lot on August 21. Binding and gagging them, he took them to Chicago in the stolen car, but criminally attacked the girl twice before they were released.

On August 21 he robbed a Chicago citizen and stole his car, and two days later, still wearing the policeman's uniform, robbed a Chicago mail truck and got away with about $14,000.

Kadens was next seen in Bucyrus, Ohio, on September 15, when he was forced to abandon a stolen car after a gun battle with a deputy sheriff.

On September 23 he robbed another Chicago couple, bound them and drove them to near Winnetka, Ill., where they escaped. Two days later he was blamed with having robbed a Cleveland taxi driver.

Back in Chicago he robbed another couple on September 26 and criminally attacked the girl. He shot a policeman the following day while getting away with another automobile. Then, in quick succession, he robbed another Chicago man, criminally assaulted a girl in Detroit and stole a car in Flanagan, Ill., and used it in making his escape after robbing a Chicago service station.

OCT 17 1942

A third Chicago couple was then robbed and the girl criminally assaulted on October 6 and the following day at gun point he relieved another Chicagoan of his car and $120.

Kadens, a native of Cleveland, who is married and has two children, has boasted that he will not be alive on his next birthday, on October 22. He is 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighs about 150 pounds and has brown hair and black eyes. On his right upper lip is a mole the size of a pencil eraser.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Woman Attacked; Peddler Held

JAN 20 1942

Identified by a young married woman who said he criminally assaulted her, a punchboard salesman was being held for police investigation last night.

The victim, 19, removed to Gallinger Hospital after pointing out her attacker, said the 32-year-old man entered her apartment yesterday mornnig with punchboards to sell.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Blonde Tells Hushed Court Attack Details

FEB 1 8 1942

FEB 1 8 1942

Accused Landlord, 53, Pale But Composed Throughout Testimony

Medical testimony from Dr. Meyer Stolar, Gallinger Hospital physician, yesterday concluded the first day of evidence in the case of Orman W. Ewing, 53-year-old landlord and former politician, on trial for his life for allegedly raping a 19-year-old Government girl last fall.

Testimony from the slim, blonde complaining witness highlighted the day's session, which also saw two of her girl friends called to the stand. Today the jury of 11 men and one woman is scheduled to hear evidence from police officers and a youth who was out with the girl on the eve of the alleged attack.

Remaining pale but composed throughout two and a half hours of questioning, the girl accused Ewing of breaking into her room about 2 a. m. October 26 and attacking her.

FEB 1 8 1942

Guest of Family Friend

She said that she was then staying in an apartment house at 1101 Sixteenth Street Northwest as the guest of a family friend, Miss Hester Chamberlin, coowner of the building with Ewing. The temporary quarters had been given her, she said, upon her arrival in Washington from Utah October 12 to take a Civil Service post.

Miss Chamberlin and Ewing also are from Utah, Ewing having represented the State on the Democratic National Committee for a number of years prior to 1937.

Speaking in a low voice, so that the entire courtroom hushed to catch her words, she said that she had met the defendant shortly after arrival here and that he had taken her sightseeing twice.

Ewing, ashen-faced and considerably thinner after his four-month stay in jail, listened attentively while she told of coming back to her room from a "date" on the night of October 25 to find Ewing and Miss Chamberlin sitting in the apartment living room.

FEB 1 8 1942

Offered a Drink, She Says

"He offered me a drink and a cigarette," she related, "but I refused. I don't drink or smoke."

She retired to her room shortly afterward, she continued, and had been in bed for about half an hour when Ewing burst into her room in his underwear, breaking a chain-lock with which she had secured the door.

She said that he threatened several times to kill her if she cried out or resisted, adding that he once threatened to "throw you down the hole." "The hole," she said, referred to a large excavation being made in the rear of the building.

Her testimony covered the entire day following, as she related how she had told two of her girl friends about the attack, and how one of them had helped her move immediately to new quarters.

Finally Called in Police

She said that she and the friend had tried to decide what she should do about the occurrence, but said that she called in police only after talking to her escort of the previous evening, who consulted a relative in the legal profession for advice.

"I just didn't know what to do," she said. "I didn't want it to get in the papers and have my parents find out about it. I was so worried and nervous."

FEB 1 8 1942

It was at this point that she came nearest to losing her composure, her voice choking momentarily as she told of her anxiety. Her parents, here from Utah, were present in the court room all day.

Defense Attorney Charles Henry Smith questioned her closely on cross-examination about her relationship with the young man she had "dated" the night before the attack. She said that she had known him about a wek and had been out with him three times.

Girl Friends Testify

FEB 1 8 1942

Her two girl friends, who were called briefly to the stand, and Dr. Stolar all testified that she appeared very "upset" and "jittery" the next day. The doctor testified that he had examined her at Gallinger, and stated that at that time she had had intimate relations for the first time within the preceding 12 or 36 hours.

He added upon cross-examination, however, that he could not ascertain whether there had been an assault or not.

Prosecutors Charles B. Murray and John W. Fihelly told the jury in their opening statement that they would ask the death penalty for Ewing because he had violated a relationship of "trust and confidence" between himself and the 19-year-old girl.

37m-1942
Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

6969

Colored Girl, 17, Attacked By Passenger on High Seas

JUN 13 1942

Details of how the captain of the S. S. Robert E. Lee armed his passengers with guns to protect themselves from the colored crew were dramatically described this week by members of the crew upon their return to New York following an eventful trip from the West Indies. According to a spokesman for the crew, the Robert E. Lee was two days out of Port of Ponce, Porta Rica, when a white passenger accused of having attacked a 17-year-old colored girl was found badly beaten, allegedly by members of the crew.

Passed Out Guns

When general unrest among the passengers began to run high, the captain passed out guns which the passengers kept until the ship docked. This is believed to be the first instance in maritime history that a captain has taken such action.

James Hightower, Leo Harris and Joseph Emerson, colored crewmen, were taken ashore at Port of Ponce and charged with assaulting William McDermott, the white man who attempted to attack the 17-year-old colored girl, who was en route from Trinidad to New York. After their mates were jailed, the seamen went to the captain and demanded that the passengers be disarmed or they would sign off ship. When asked why he had not armed the ship's officers instead of the passengers, Captain Heath, said to be a southerner, replied that his officers were not capable of carrying guns.

JUN 13 1942

Taken in Custody

For the rest of the trip, the passengers were without guns, but when the ship reached New Orleans, two other members of the crew, Charles Johnson and Felix Nervell, were taken into custody and another white passenger, William K. Morse, who had somehow become involved in the incident, was removed to a hospital.

Edna Jenkinson, stewardess, arrived in New York on June 5 with the 17-year-old girl whom McDermott attempted to attack. In an interview with an Amsterdam Star-News reporter, Miss Jenkinson said:

"On May 26, between 11:30 and 12 o'clock, I was sitting in the smoking room when a member of the crew, Jimmy Brown, informed me that the young lady in my care had been molested. I then went downstairs in search of the young lady and found her in her room. She was crying. I asked her what was wrong and who had bothered her. She stated that if he bothered her again she would tell me. I told her that is was necessary for her to tell me immediately.

Came to Stateroom

"I then left her, instructing her to join me as soon as he felt better. In 20 minutes she came to my stateroom. I asked her again if she would be able to identify the man if she saw him. She said she would. I then took her on a tour of the ship, but she could not identify any of the passengers we saw.

"We then proceeded to the main deck where we saw Pete Werner, white, of Maspeth, L. I., and two other passengers who asked us if we had found the man. I told them we had not. Mr. Werner said he had seen the man attempt to molest the girl and had trailed him to stateroom 21. I then took the child and two passengers to stateroom 21. The door was open and a man was lying on the bed with his eyes closed. The girl identified him as the man who had molested her and I then sent her back to her room.

Deserved a Beating

"Mr. Werner and the other two passengers said it was a shame and something should be done about it. They said the man deserved a good beating. I then proceeded to my stateroom and remained there for the rest of the time. As for the assault on the passenger—I did not see it.

"About an hour later I was summoned to the captain's quarters on the main deck with the young lady. The captain wanted my story. I told him what happened. He stated that the man was in the next room receiving medical aid. He wanted the girl to see if she could identify him. The captain then asked me why I thought the crew had taken the situation in their own hands.

Would Be Crucified

"I replied: 'From my point of view, if it had been a white woman involved, with the type of southern passengers we have aboard, a Negro accused of such an act would have been crucified!' The captain said that had no bearing on the case and brought out McDermott and the girl identified him as the man who had molested her. She said he had been kissing her and trying to fondle certain parts of her body. McDermott denied the charges, but later said if the young lady was positive he must have done it, but was under the influence of liquor. The captain dismissed us and we went back to my stateroom."

A. P. Tureaud, New Orleans attorney, wired the NAACP that charges against Nervell and Johnson had been dropped. One of the three crewmen taken into custody at Port of Ponce is said to have been released on bail, but two remain under arrest.

Pledged Aid

At a meeting of the International Seafarers Union held in their offices here at 2 Stone Street on June 8, the members pledged to aid their imprisoned mates to the fullest of their ability.

Even after they had left ship, the crewmen met with difficulties. On the train trip, one of them was taken off at Montgomery, Ala., and threatened with a beating if he opened his "d--- black mouth again." Another of the men brought back a board taken from a jim-crow street car. They all agreed that it was bad enough dodging submarines, but it was much worse ducking crackers.

37m-1942
Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

GEORGIA

6970

Rome Ga. Again In The Limelight

Woman Jailed After Slashing Throat of White Attacker: Report

BY JAMES E. BARNES

ROME, Ga.—(SNS)—Miss Victoria Bailey, of 501 East 14th street, is in jail here charged with assault and attempted murder as the result of a fight during which she tried to protect herself from the reported attempted attack of a white man.

Held without bond in the same town that recently received much publicity following the Roland Hayes police beating, Miss Bailey was none the worse following her harrassing experience on the night of August 9.

According to Miss Bailey, she had gone to nearby Lindale to check on a job that had been offered her. Returning to the bus stop around eleven o'clock that night, a white man, later identified at Thomas A. Cole of Lindale, approached her on a lonely stretch in the very dark road and asked for a date. When Miss Bailey refused him, the white man is said to have been angered and struck her to the ground. The young colored woman managed to get up and started running away, the white man overtook her and struck her down again, this time attempting to carry out the purpose of his approach, according to reports.

Miss Bailey is then said to have got out her knife that she carried to protect herself in such cases and struck at Cole, the knife blade causing a severe cut of the throat.

Officer Grover Williams, of Lindale, arrested the young woman and carried her to the Rome jail, while an ambulance carried the white man to Rome's McCall Hospital where a blood transfusion was necessary. Charges of assault and attempt to murder were later lodged against her in the Floyd County Jail.

Friends and sympathizers are donating money that a lawyer may be secured to defend the young colored woman, who seems destined to feel the blunt end of a typical miscarriage of justice.

Birmingham Post
Birmingham, Alabama

MISSING CHILD, 6, IS DISCOVERED DEAD

12/7/42

By United Press.

MACON, Ga., Dec. 7.—Searchers late yesterday discovered Sylvia Grooms, six-year-old East Macon girl, lying nude and unconscious in a pool of icy water near here, 24 hours after she disappeared from her home Saturday night.

Police refused to comment today on reports that a man was seen with the girl shortly after she disappeared. Chief of Police Robert L. Miller said she was suffering from shock, numerous scratches and bruises, but was expected to recover.

Two auxiliary officers found the girl in a swamp nearly a mile from her home. The lower half of her body was submerged in the pool. Her nightgown was f ound nearby.

The girl's father, Cecil Grooms, an airport worker, told police she disappeared while the family ate dinner Saturday night.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Kidnaped Girl Found at Macon In Icy Puddle

Dec. 8, 1942

4-Year-Old, Missing 17 Hours, Recovering at Hospital.

MACON, Ga., Dec. 7.—(AP)—Police Chief Robert Miller said today that a four-year-old girl had been kidnaped from her bed and was later found lying in an icy puddle of water, bruised, scratched and semi-conscious.

The chief said the child was Sylvia Grooms, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Grooms, of East Macon.

Miller said the girl was discovered missing from her bed late Saturday night and was found some 17 hours later, about 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon, after a search by police, auxiliary police, soldiers and friends of the family.

A soggy little nightgown was found first near the Indian mounds here, about a mile from the child's home. A small slip was discovered a little farther on and then a soldier and several city detectives discovered the child lying in a puddle of water. The water was almost up to her neck.

She was scratched and bruised in many places. Although semi-conscious she recognized her father.

Dec 8, 1942

Chief Miller said she was "doing fine" at a hospital today. She was unable to give much assistance to police immediately. At one time she said one man carried her off, and another time she said two were involved. Miller said police had talked to the child again today, but he declined to say what additional information she was able to give them.

Miller said "all available" officers were working on the case, but that heavy rains which obliterated all tracks had hindered them.

37m-1942

ILLINOIS

6971

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

TWO HOMEWOOD RAPISTS GUILTY; GET 1-14 YEARS

Convicted of Attack on Girl, 14.

Two young Homewood men were found guilty yesterday by Judge George Fred Rush in Criminal court of assault with intent to commit rape. Judge Rush heard the case without a jury and sentenced them to 1 to 14 years in prison, recommending a minimum term of three years and a maximum of five for the pair.

They are Robert [Boots] Thompson, 19 years old, 18444 Dundee road, and Graydon [Deedee] Hansen, 17, of 17922 Gottschalk avenue, Homewood. Their victim was a 14 year old Homewood girl.

A 10 day stay to perfect an appeal was granted by the court and the bonds of the two were raised to from $3,500 to $5,000 each. Neither was able to meet the bond and they were remanded to jail.

A statutory charge of rape still is pending against Thompson based on the story of another 14 year old girl who was a witness to the assault on the complaining witness in yesterday's trial.

According to the testimony yesterday, the two young men on May 2 went to a Homewood home in which a girl friend of the complainant was taking care of some children and whom the victim was visiting. The three caused so much disturbance that the girl acting as a nursemaid told them to get out, she testified.

The girl victim said when they left the house Hansen pulled her into an auto and she was driven out to a deserted spot near Homewood, where Hansen and Thomson both attacked her.

The girl who is the complaining witness in the pending case and a third man were in the front seat. The third man yesterday corroborated the girl's story, but the girl in the front seat said she was asleep during the assault.

37m-1942

LOUISIANA

6972

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

Veteran Accused Of Assault, Ax Murder Of Stepdaughter

JUN 3 - 1942

By the United Press

HAMMOND, La., June 2.—A moody, sun-tanned World War veteran Tuesday was charged formally with the criminal assault and ax slaying of his 14-year-old stepdaughter.

District Atty. Bolivar Kemp charged Log Cutter George Rushing, 40, with the bloody crime after pretty Hazel LeBlanc died Tuesday afternoon in New Orleans' Charity Hospital of 12 to 15 gashes about her head.

Don't Remember It

Police Chief Robert O. Torrence, who has questioned Rushing since the latter reported finding the girl lying in the front yard of their home early Monday morning, quoted Rushing as saying:

"Well, Bob, the way you've got the case laid out, I must have done it, but if I did I don't remember it."

Rushing had told Torrence that the girl had come home about 10:30 Sunday night after going to a movie with the only boy he allowed her to go out with alone.

He said he had taken two sedative capsules, as was his custom because of nervousness, but that a noise waked him about midnight. He searched the house, noted the girl was missing and finally, Rushing related, found her in the front yard.

"She was just lying there," Rushing said. "When she saw me she raised up a little, tried to speak and then fell back. I said, 'what's the matter with you?' But all she got out was 'mister . . .'—then she couldn't talk anymore. She always called me 'Mister George.'"

An ax was found in the bushes about 50 feet from the house at the time of the attack. The girl's mother was in New Orleans, where Tuesday she was reunited with her first husband, Jules LeBlanc, as the couple anxiously watched the condition of their child until the time of her death.

"I'd like to get the man who did that," LeBlanc muttered.

Mrs. Rushing, who tried unsuccessfully to contact Rushing by telephone, returned to Hammond late Tuesday with the girl's body.

Rushing pleaded guilty in 1933 to attacking a girl and spent 13 months in the Mississippi Hospital for the Criminally Insane.

6973

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

'1-Boy Crime Wave' Caught After Attack

FEB 22 1942

Shoots at Policemen, Assaults Woman, Robs Her of Car and $9

(Picture on Page 13.)

A 17-year-old white youth was held last night on a technical charge at Rockville, Md., in connection with a series of crimes early yesterday.

Park Police who arrested the youth said he told them he had raped a 36-year-old Government worker at Sycamore Hills, Md., had killed a policeman, and then had stolen the woman's automobile and $9 from her pocketbook.

Police records begin with the notation that James Anderson, of Glen Echo, Md., telephoned to the Bethesda police station and said he was "going to shoot somebody."

FEB 22 1942

Shoots at Policemen

Corp. W. F. Soper, Policeman W. Whalen and Desk Clerk D. D. Padgett hurried to the address given in a scout car. Padgett remained in the car while the others went toward the house. They were hailed from the house next door, occupied by Anderson's brother-in-law, and, while approaching it, were fired on, one bullet whistling past Soper's head.

The assailant ran from the house, firing a shot at Padgett as he passed the police car. Anderson's mother and stepfather arrived at that time and the mother ran in front of Soper and cried:

"Don't shoot. We can handle him."

FEB 22 1942

Soper held his fire and the youth escaped, jumping into a car driven by Leonard Ray Bailey, of 1303 P Street Northwest, who was about to leave a neighbor at his home. At the point of a gun, the youth forced Bailey to drive him from the scene. The police feared to fire because of Bailey. A few blocks away the boy alighted and fired two shots at Bailey as he ran from the scene.

FEB 22 1942

Search of Woods Started

Police sent for help and, augmented by State and county police, began a search of the woods.

Meanwhile, the boy ran to the home of the woman, a secluded cottage in the woods, and knocked on the door. Not waiting for an answer, he kicked in the front door. The woman, who a few months ago had been carried from her home in a fire, awoke and threw on a coat as she ran to the door, believing the intruder was attempting to rescue her from another fire.

The youth, however, tore her coat, pajamas and a chemise from her and attacked her. He told police he attacked her twice again. She said it was only once more.

He then told the terrified woman he planned on staying a few hours while police were looking for him. He also said he had killed a policeman and wouldn't mind shooting her if she screamed. She suggested he take her car and make his getaway, a suggestion he accepted after robbing her pocketbook of $9. Waiting a few minutes to be sure he had left, she called police and gave them the number of her license plates. These were broadcast over the police radio and picked up by park police.

FEB 22 1942

Admits His Identity

Park Policemen E. B. Cullember and Charles R. McAndrews saw the car in a drive-in lunchroom near Highway Bridge in Arlington County and waited until the occupant returned to the car. He at first denied being Anderson but later admitted his identity to the park policemen. Capt. Mark H. Raspberry, of the park police, said 22 pistol and 250 rounds of ammunition were found in his car. They were attempting to identify them as stolen in Arlington County, Va.

Anderson was booked at the Bethesda station on an open charge of investigation while Detective Lieut. Theodore Vollten, commanding the county detective bureau, and Lieut. Leroy Rodgers, commanding the station, and their aids continued the investigation.

FEB 22

The boy's mother said her son had been "very drunk" Friday night. She said he had been employed as a laborer on the new War Department Building in Arlington, and that he was a nice boy, although he had been in a "little trouble." Washington police said the youth had been committed to the National Training School for Boys by the Juvenile Court in 1940.

He escaped in an automobile owned by the institution and later was given a suspended sentence by Judge Alan T. Goldsborough on charges of grand larceny and fleeing a Federal institution. The judge sentenced him to from 4 to 12 months suspended and placed him on probation.

Persons involved in the case will be given an opportunity to view the suspect today.

MICHIGAN

6974

37m-1942
Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

WHITE SAILOR CLEARED OF RAPE CHARGE

Pregnant Woman Weeps At Verdict; Judge Scores Jury

By LARRY GHISM

DETROIT.—Midnight Friday an all white jury of five men and seven women acquitted the 17-year-old U. S. Coast Guardsman of the capital attack and rape of a 23 year old pregnant Negro mother on August 24, a short distance from the Sojourner Truth project.

On the witness stand for approximately two hours, the rape victim identified her assailant as Mike Stephanchenko, 18, of 18445 Dean street. He was home on a 15 day furlough from Camp Kilmer, N. J.

Pregnant Mother Accusses White Soldier

The young married woman, now seven months pregnant, told the court and white jury that she had been grabbed from behind, hustled into a field filled with weeds five feet high and threatened with death if she mad an outcry.

"See these hands," she said the white soldier told her, "I'm the maniac of the neighborhood and I'll kill you."

NOV. 21 A 43

She Was Raped Twice

She testified before Recorder's Judge Arthur E. Gordon that she was then ravished. Meanwhile the white soldier prevented her escape by keeping one arm around her waist.

Continuing her story to the jury the rape victim told how she was then dragged approximately 150 feet further away, where she was again attacked.

Finally she escaped and fled to the home of a friend, Virginia Nash, where she told her story and police were called to investigate the case.

Find Her Clothes In Field

Police later found her umbrella, packages, shoes and undergarments near the second attack scene. These objects were identified by the victime and introduced as evidence in the case.

Detective Albert Langtry of the scientific laboratory told the court that there was evidence of sexual relations on uniform trousers taken from the bedroom of the soldier and also upon the under slip of the married woman.

Dr. Hodson Hansen, Receiving hospital interne, stated that his examination of the rape victim disclosed evidence of an intercourse when he had examined her.

Coast Guardsman Denies Charges

Taking the stand at approximately 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Stephanchenko denied being near the attack scenes or of ever molesting the Negro mother. His alibi was that he had attended a picnic, where he drank 15 bottles of beer and that he later had three more beers at a tavern before going home at approximately 1:30 a.m.

The alleged attack occurred between the hours of 2:30 and 4 a.m. on last August 24.

However, it was disclosed that Stephanchenko lived a short distance from the attack scene.

White Judge Raps All-White Jury

Following the announcement of a verdict by James E. Skeeters, foreman of the jury, Judge A. E. Gordon said:

"You've made a serious mistake in this case by bringing in that verdict."

Both the young husband and the alleged rape victim wept as they left the courtroom late Friday night.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

SOLDIER IS CHARGED WITH ASSAULTING GIRL

JUN 24 1942

Hattiesburg Police Chief Says He Has Confession

Special to The Commercial Appeal

HATTIESBURG, Miss., June 23. —Forrest County Atty. Homer Pittman said Tuesday he has filed charges of criminal assault against Pvt. Wilbur Thomas Fry, 23, of Peru, Ind., a member of the 131st Engineers Regiment stationed at Camp Shelby.

JUN 24 1942

Pittman said the assault on a 17-year-old girl, took place last Saturday night. The girl said she was dragged on a school ground while walking home.

Fry is being held in a guardhouse at Camp Shelby. His release to civil authorities has been requested, Pittman said.

Chief of Police M. M. Little said the soldier had confessed the assault and that he was identified by the girl.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

SOLDIER FACES LIFE IN ATTACK ON GIRL, 1

Hoosier Is Convicted On Rap Charge In Hattiesburg

Special to The Commercial Appeal

HATTIESBURG, Miss., July 2 —Wilbur Thomas Fry, 23-year-o Camp Shelby soldier, Tuesd faced a life term in the State Pe itentiary, following conviction Mo day night by a Forrest County ci cuit court jury on a charge raping a 17-year-old white girl Hattiesburg on June 20.

37m

Fry's attorney said he would fi appeal papers this week. Mea while Fry, whose home is in Per Ind., is being held in the Coun Jail.

Officers testified that Fry co fessed the alleged assault after h was arrested on a school groun where the girl was found by pe sons who heard her screaming. Th girl identified him from the wi ness stand as her attacker.

Two physicians introduced as d fense witnesses testified they ha examined the girl and could fin no evidence that she had bee raped. The jury deliberated tw hours and thirty minutes.

6976

37m-1942

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

ASSAULT IS CHARGED

JUN 3 - 1942

J. D. McDonald, Cooter, Mo., Is Unable to Make Bond

COOTER, Mo., June 2.—J. D. McDonald, 28, was arrested Tuesday by Abner Ashcraft on charges of criminal assault which was committed on a Cooter girl near Cooter Sunday night. The charges were made by the girl's father, who said the act occurred Sunday night as the couple were returning from a show. The girl said she was also badly beaten by McDonald, who had been paroled from Missouri State Penitentiary, where he had served 13 months for a similar crime.

JUN 3 - 1942

Preliminary hearing for McDonald will be held June 8 before D. B. Barber at Cooter. He was unable to make $1000 bond and will be held in the County Jail.

Argus

St. Louis, Missouri

Free White Man Of Girl Rape Charge

OCT 9 - 1942

A jury in Circuit Judge Russell's court Wednesday acquitted and discharged a 51-year-old white shoe worker of a charge of raping a 13-year-old colored school girl who said he is the father of her 5-month-old blonde boy.

OCT 9 - 1942

The girl, whose mother reported the case, had told that the defendant, Andrew Delegan, lured her to his room, then at 1718 (rear) Franklin to do cleaning on Saturday for 50 cents. Sept. 14, 1940 she said, he accosted her on the job saying "let's get together."

OCT 9 - 1942

She said when she told him she didn't know what he was talking about he grabbed her and attacked her holding his hand over her mouth to keep her from screaming. She stated he later tried to bribe her to drop the prosecution for $75 and also get her take something to get rid of the child.

37m-1942

Man Who Attacked 80 Women Held

Hearst Press
APR 24 1942

NEW YORK, April 23.—(AP)—A man described by police as a sex-maniac, who they said they believed had attacked 80 women in the past four months, was taken into custody Thursday, culminating a search of 70 detectives for him.

Police said the man usually followed lone women into apartment house self-service elevators and attacked his victims after stopping the car between floors and threatening to kill them with a shoemaker's knife if they resisted.

A large body of plain clothesmen, some of them dressed as women, had endeavored to trap him.

After hours of questioning during which police said 56 women victims had positively identified him, the suspect was booked as Eugene Levine, 30, Brooklyn, on charges of assault, robbery and attempted criminal assault.

APR 24 1942

The man was described as a Brooklyn car-wrecker, married, and the father of a small child. He is six feet tall, powerfully built, and weighs 240 pounds.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Attacker of 100 Sentenced To 82-155 Years

MAY 26 1942

Father Guilty on Five Counts in Elevator Assaults

MAY 26 1942

NEW YORK, May 25.—(AP)—Eugene Levine, 31-year-old Brooklyn father of a small daughter who confessed to attacking more than 100 women, was sentenced to from 82 years and and six months to 155 years in prison today on his plea of guilty to five indictments charging assault, robbery, rape and larceny.

The husky six-footer, whose method of attack was to lure women into self-service elevators which he stopped between floors, broke down and wept as Kings County Judge Louis Goldstein expressed regret he could not impose the death penalty under the law.

"In my opinion you deserve the death penalty," the judge told the defendant, adding that he would recommend to Governor Lehman that the state's laws be amended to permit the death sentence in such cases.

MAY 26 1942

Levine, a used car dealer, was arrested April 23 and pleaded guilty May 11. For a while he was confined to a hospital observation ward, but physicians reported he was sane.

Levine pleaded for mercy, claiming he did not remember any of the attacks.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Police Save White Rapist In Brooklyn

SEP 5 1942

A near race riot broke in the Gates avenue section of Brooklyn Wednesday night when news spread that a white man had attacked a Negro child in the hallway at 487 Lexington ave. Several hundred Negroes gathered in front of Gates avenue station, some shouting, "Let's lynch the white man!"

Excitement began when someone saw a man, who identified himself as John Gonyer, 53, a bartender at the Peoples hotel, leading nine-year-old Annie Williams, 562 Lexington ave., Brooklyn, by the hand into the hallway. Shortly thereafter someone heard the child scream. The man is alleged to have raped the child.

A large crowd gathered. The police were called. Radio cars responded. Gonyer was taken into custody. Negroes began to shout "Lynch him!" The police, to avoid trouble, pushed Gonyer into a police radio car and rushed him to the station house.

The crowd followed. Gonyer was locked up on a rape charge. But the crowd increased in size. For a time it looked as if the milling crowd was determined to get revenge for the reported attack on the child.

Police then appealed to the people outside to go home. They were assured that proper steps had been taken to bring about justice. Detective Morahan, Gates avenue station, was the arresting officer.

NEW YORK
Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

White Man Lures Girl, 9, To Cellar, Attacks Her

AUG 29 1942

Angry Mob Menaces Boweryite But Pastor Calms Them; Culprit Held for Grand Jury

By TOMMY WATKINS

While the daily press was busy painting a mythical "crime wave" for Harlem, they failed to print the story of a 53-year-old white man who lured a 9-year-old girl into the basement of 487 Lexington Avenue, Brooklyn, and criminally assaulted her.

This lewd crime was committed on Wednesday night and nearly caused a riot in the Lexington Avenue vicinity. Crowds of residents milled around the scene and it was miraculous that the attacker was not pounced upon by the angered onlookers.

Tempted with Cone

According to information obtained from police and residents of the community, John Gunyer, 53 and white, gave the girl an ice cream cone and then offered to take her to dinner. The girl told him that she had just eaten and that she wasn't hungry.

Gunyer, who gave his address as the Park Palace Hotel on the Bowery, then persuaded the young girl to go with him into the basement. A resident across the street noticed the peculiar manner in which Gunyer was acting and called the police.

An unidentified white man became so incensed by the act, he knocked Gunyer to the ground. Only quick interference by officers prevented him from severely beating the suspect. Meanwhile news of the attack was spreading like wildfire in the uptown area.

Large Mob Gathers

By the time police managed to get Gunyer to the Gates Avenue precinct, a large mob was gathering at the station house. The Rev. Thomas S. Harten, militant borough minister who was conducting a rally at Concord Baptist Church, was informed of the crime and rushed to the precinct station.

A speech by the Rev. Mr. Harten quieted the angry crowd. Several of the spectators yelled: "Let's go get him and take care of him ourselves." Others were calling out: "We've got to protect our young girls and women."

Inside the precinct, Detective Morahan was quizzing Gunyer, who apparently was unmoved by his sex crime.

When he was arraigned in Brooklyn Felony Court on Thursday, Gunyer claimed that he had been drinking and "didn't know what he was doing." He was jailed under $3,500 bail to await action of the Grand Jury.

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

White Man Must Face Rape Case

SEP 5 - 1942

Indicted for Attack On Negro Girl of 9

John Gunyon, 55-year-old former Bowery resident, accused of the rape of a nine-year-old Negro girl in an abandoned house in Brooklyn recently, was indicted by the Kings County Grand Jury and held in $1,000 bail last week.

The case aroused wide indignation, an enraged crowd collecting in front of the house at 487 Lexington Ave., where the attack occurred.

SEP 5 - 1942

Gunyon was reported caught red-handed in the airway of the house by Clarence Whatley, white, of 485 Lexington Ave., whose suspicions had been aroused when Gunyon took the child into the house.

Filled with horror stories about Harlem muggings, not one metropolitan daily considered this atrocity newsworthy.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

6977

NAB WHITE MAN IN RAPE TRY

AUG 29 1942

9-Year-Old Brooklynite Was Victim; Another White Rescues Her

Reportedly discovered in the actual performance of the sexual act with a nine-year old Brooklyn girl as his victim, John Gunyon, whose last known address was a flophouse on the Bowery, was arrested by police of the Gates avenue precinct in Brooklyn Wednesday night.

Clarence Whatley, white, of 485 Lexington avenue, Brooklyn, who told reporters that he discovered Gunyon, partially undressed and in a compromising position with the girl in an empty house at 487 Lexington avenue, was to appear before the Kings County Grand Jury on Tuesday to testify against Gunyon.

AUG 29 1942

With the help of Mrs. Lola Younger, Gilbert Younger, her husband; Willie Bailey, her brother; Hampton Logan, her brother-in-law, all Negroes, of 454 Lexington avenue, Whatley related, he dragged the girl's alleged attacker out of the "trash house" of the deserted building and held him until police arrived on the scene.

Reporters first learned of the amazing incident from the Rev. Thomas S. Harten. Harten, who was addressing a mass meeting in Brooklyn when the alleged rape try occurred, left the platform to make a dramatic appearance at the scene of the incident and then later to repair to the Gates avenue precinct where he warned police that Gunyon "must be meted out the justice he deserves." Coincidentally, Harten's meeting had been called to protest recent cases involving alleged police brutality on the part of police of that very precinct.

AUG 29 1942

"Harten sure was mad," one of the large crowd of Negroes who had collected outside the station house, told reporters. "He gave the cops hell. He asked them why they didn't beat Gunyon up like they beat up all the colored folks they arrest. Then he dared them to beat him up, too."

AUG 29 1942

"But they didn't bother him at all," the speaker boasted gleefully.

The name of the girl victim is withheld because of her youth.

A NINE-YEAR-OLD NEGRO GIRL RAPED, BUT N.Y. PRESS SUPPRESSES THE NEWS

Daily Worker N.Y.,N.Y.

By EUGENE GORDON

The New York Daily News, the World Telegram, the Brooklyn Eagle, and other big metropolitan dailies are still deathly silent, after more than a week, on the rape of a 9-year-old Negro girl in a vacant Brooklyn house and the capture of the supposed attacker in the very act. There can be no doubt that the newspapers knew of the case. The Daily Worker yesterday uncovered these facts:

1. John Gunyon, alleged rapist, was up before the Kings County Grand Jury Wednesday for indictment.

2. Among witnesses against him were Clarence Whatley, white, of 485 Lexington Ave., Brooklyn, who caught Gunyon and held him for the police; the parents of the little girl (those names are being withheld); Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Younger, Negroes, who live across the street opposite Mr. Whatley and who helped to shield the accused man from the wrath of the crowd.

3—A score of policemen, always conspicuously on duty in that Negro neighborhood, responded to a riot call and took Gunyon to the police station.

4—The story of the alleged crime and the man's arrest was available to all newspapers through the police ticker.

AUG 31 1942

Clarence Whatley, witness of the crime, said yesterday he had searched all the big dailies for the story. He "couldn't understand" why it had not been published.

The mother of the child, however, told the Daily Worker bitterly that she understood why nothing had been said.

"They're too busy running down black people," she said, "to pay any attention to crimes against black people."

She said "everybody knows" what would have happened to the man "if he had been colored" and "everybody knows what the newspapers would have done."

She recalled the headlines on the alleged rooftop "rape" case in Harlem of two weeks ago.

GUNYON CONFESSES

The mother said her child had suffered "lacerations and internal hemorrhages" from the attack. The Children's Society, she revealed, was helping to prosecute the case.

Negro neighbors of Clarence Whatley praised him for what he did. They said he was "so mad" he "took a couple of pokes" at Gunyon.

AUG 31 1942

"I have lived in this neighborhood more than 40 years," Whatley told the Daily Worker. "Its residents are, on the whole, respectable and law-abiding Negro people."

Gunyon is said to have admitted the deed, when arraigned before the Grand Jury.

Mr. Whatley reminded the reporter that there was a war against fascism going on. He added:

"Negroes and whites have to get together. Aren't we all American citizens together?"

The victim of the alleged attack lives on Lexington Ave. within a block and a half of the place where Whatley and his neighbors found her.

News of the crime came to light at a mass meeting where the Rev. Thomas S. Harten, militant Negro minister of Brooklyn, was decrying police brutality against the Negro people. He left the platform and, a few minutes later, appeared dramatically at the 79th precinct police station.

A crowd gathered outside as Mr. Harten lectured the police on its duty in this case. Angry, they later stationed a strong detail at the mass meeting.

AUG 31 1942

The Daily News, the World Telegram and other crusading sheets continued to keep silent.

37m-1942

NORTH CAROLINA

6978

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

White Attacker Burns Victim's Child to Death

JAN 31 1942

CHARLOTTE, N.C.—Mecklenburg County police are searching for an unidentified white man accused of killing the 2-year-old son of a farm woman he sought to criminally assault, by choking him and setting fire to his clothing.

Mrs. Gussie Caldwell, who lives on the Catawba River about ten miles from Charlotte, said that she had gone to a spring near her home to get water, just after nightfall on Wednesday, when the white man, about 30 years old, accosted her.

Attacker Fought Off

Her son, John Richard, who accompanied her, ran when the attacker grabbed his mother. She managed to break away, but the white man overtook the child, choked him until unconscious and left him burning in the field.

JAN 31 1942

Flames, spreading rapidly among the stubble, prevented Mrs. Caldwell from saving her child. Her husband, she said, was chopping wood about a half mile away at the time.

Denton was arrested by a squad of detectives in a bus terminal during the early morning hours. He denied flatly that he was the man wanted.

The attacks on the two women occurred within a period of 20 minutes on streets five blocks apart.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

White Youth Gets 5-7 Years In Attack Case

GREENSBORO, N. C. — Judge Wilson Warlick of Guilford Superior Court sentenced Wesley Grant, Jr., 14-year-old white youth of High Point to 5-7 years in State Prison at Raleigh for assault with intent to commit rape on Annie Mae McWing, 12-year-old Negro girl. However, the judge dictated a letter to Governor Broughton recommending that the youth be transferred to a reformatory, indicating that the boy's "chance in life has not been good."

MAR 21 1942

State laws gives the governor authority to order prisoners under 16 years of age from prison to a reformatory.

Grant escaped the prospect of certain conviction on a charge of rape, and mandatory imposition of the death sentence, chiefly because the family of his victim, 12-year old Mae McWing, a colored girl, relented in presence of the judge and sought leniency for him.

Grant, Jr. was tried in the Guilford County superior court for rape of the colored girl. After all of the evidence was in, defense council presented a plea of guilty of assault with intent to commit rape and this was accepted by the prosecuion.

CONCEALED HIMSELF

On January 14 Annie Mae stayed home from school because of bad weather. She went to deliver some clothes for her mother and met this boy on a deserted road near a field. He concealed himself behind a tree. When she passed he yelled at her, pretended that he had a gun and forced her to a secluded spot where he used a pocket knife to force her to submit to him.

Two white officers, C. C. Stoker and E. L. Kivett, were instrumental in collecting the evidence and presenting it to the court.

The prosecuting attorney, when he accepted the pleas, said he did so not because he thought the evidence warranted it that he was not guilty of rape, which is punishable by death in the gas chamber in North Carolina, but because of the extreme youth and the poor environmental condition of the defendant.

The aunt and uncle of Annie Mae, with whom the child lived, said that although they believed the story was true, they did not want to see the defendant die.

Judge William Warlick commended them for their forgiving attitude. The prosecuting attorney suggested that had the colors been reversed the attitude would not have been so favorable.

With the understanding of the girl's family both sides agreed not to send the case to the jury because in the event of conviction the death sentence would have to be imposed.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Posse Hunts White Sex Maniac in N.C.

OCT 10 1942

LAURINBURG, N.C. — Posses from two States were searching the woods along the North and South Carolina border early this week for an unidentified white Shipbuilding Company, Tuesday, immediately after the launching of the Liberty Ship Booker T. Washington.

OCT 10 1942

Several weeks ago an item appeared in Walter Winchell's column to the efect that the noted singer would surprise the nation when the man who attacked and fatally shot Mrs. Avis McGee as her five children looked on.

OCT 10 1942

Found in the woods near her home at about 10:30 p.m. Saturday by members of her family, Mrs. McGee was taken to a hospital in Bennettsville where, after describing her assailant she died. Her husband was at McColl, S.C. at the time of the attack.

She told officers that the man came to her house with a rifle and after discovering that her husband was away forced her to accompany him into the woods where he attacked her and then shot her three times. Scotland County officers are being aided in the investigation by Marlboro County, S.C. officers.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

WHITE YOUTH HELD IN RAPE AND MURDER

OCT 24 1942

RALEIGH, N. C.—(C)—Sheriff W. D. Reynolds of Scotland county was commended last Wednesday by the governor of North Carolina, J. M. Broughton, for bringing about the prompt arrest of Earl Pressly, a white youth charged with the sex-slaying of Avis McGee, a young colored mother.

"I'm glad to see the sheriff was as diligent in investigating the rape and murder of a Negro mother by a white man as he would the rape of a white woman by a Negro man," the governor's telegram read.

OCT 24 1942

Pressly, 22-year-old South Carolinean, was arrested in Erwin, Tenn., where he had fled following the fatal attack. He has been returned to Lumberton for trial. The fugitive was identified by means of a description of her assailant given by Mrs. GeGee as she lay dying from bullet wounds in a hospital in South Carolina.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga. 1942

Praise Sheriff For Nabbing White Rapist Of Race Mother

OCT 18 1942

Carolina Chief Executive Sends Wire to Official

OCT 18 1942

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committed the dastardly crime as her five children looked on. She claimed that she was dragged into the woods, attacked and shot three times by the intruder.

OCT 10 1942

The posses began a search of the woods along the North and South Carolina border for the brutal murderer.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

POSSES HUNT WHITE MAN FOR ATTACK

OCT 10 1942

LAURINBURG, N. C., Oct. 8—Found dying in her cabin on a tenant farm near here suffering from the effects of gunshot wounds and a brutal attack, a Negro woman was taken to Bennettsville hospital Saturday, where she placed the blame upon an unidentified white man, who is being hunted by posses from two states.

The woman died a short time after her arrival at the hospital where she related to Sheriff W. D. Reynolds of Scotland County, N. C., how the man, whom she said, knew of her husband's absence,

37m-1942
Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

OHIO

6979

Ten-Year-Old Girl's Battered Body Is Found

DEC 27 1942

Missing Since Christmas Eve, Discovery Ends Police Search.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 26.—(AP)—The torn body of 10-year-old Helen Sellers, missing since Christmas Eve, was found under a warehouse late today, and Police Lieutenant Louis Vollmer reported the child had been criminally attacked and then beaten to death.

Patrol John O'Neal found the body under a pasteboard covering which yielded when he stepped on it.

Vollmer said the girl's underwear was 100 feet from the body. The girl's head had been crushed and her right arm was badly bruised.

DEC 27 1942

Only a few minutes earlier a detail of detectives found two blood-stained dresses — one a child's, the other a woman's—in the girl's own bedroom at her home. The child's dress was torn and the bloodstains covered a wide area, Detective Lieutenant Stanley Schrottel reported.

The girl's mother, Mrs. Evelyn Sellers, asked police aid when the girl disappeared Christmas eve to cash a pay check. The child disappeared and the mother waited until closing time for her, Vollmer quoted Mrs. Sellers as saying.

Detective Lt. Stanley Schrotel disclosed the girl's left hand was found to be smeared with paint.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

QUIZ WORKER, 45, IN RAPE SLAYING OF OHIO CHILD, 10

DEC 27 1942

Cincinnati, Dec. 26 (AP).—A 45 year old paint sprayer was held for questioning tonight in the rape-slaying of Helen Sellers, 10, Detective Frank Harrison reported.

Harrison said the man was apprehended in an alley near a freight warehouse where the child's beaten body was found earlier today.

Coroner Frank M. Coppock said the girl "had been horribly attacked." The head had been crushed. She might have been dead about 12 hours, Coppock added.

DEC 27 1942

Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Sellers, also were under questioning, Police Lt. Louis Vollmer said. Vollmer said the father had gone to a cafe with his wife and the child

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

POLICE SPREAD NET FOR WHITE SEX FIEND

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Aug. 6—A search for a white sexual pervert [illegible] here in Nashville after police found the mutilated body of Miss Marie Jeanette Price, [illegible] buried in a shallow grave near Antioch Tuesday.

The body, police reported, was horribly mutilated and had been in the shallow grave for several weeks.

Meanwhile District Attorney General Carlton Loser questioned an entertainer at a night club on the Murfreesboro Road, but released the man after declaring the actor was too small to have done the job.

SOUND ALARM

A general alarm for all sex perverts was sounded later in the day by Loser, who said certain characteristics of the case pointed to a white man.

City Homicide Sgt. Martin Stephens, State Highway Patrolman J. [illegible] Jackson and Deputies J. A. Carlton and Dewey Norman are aiding the attorney general in the investigation.

The identification of the clothing was made by Mrs. Virginia Sentling, mother of the dead girl. She told officers that the dress found near the grave was given the girl by an aunt.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Death Penalty Given Soldiers For Assault

JUN 13 1942

NASHVILLE, Tenn., June 12.—(AP)—Two former Camp Forrest soldiers today were found guilty of criminal assault on a 27-year-old Nashville woman, the Criminal Court jury's verdict automatically carrying death sentences in the electric chair.

Found [illegible] recommendation for mercy were Herman Paul Lonas, 20, and Charles Barnes, 24, Tennesseans who were dishonorably discharged from the Army following their arrest. Defense Attorney O. V. Myers served notice of motion for a new trial.

The jury deliberated only 20 minutes.

Colored Girl Of [illegible]

Murfreesboro Rape Victim, Say

Two White Men, One Married, In County Jail; Shocking Story Ignored By Press

MURFREESBORO, Tenn.—(Special)—Two white men, one giving the name of Lane and the other that of Norris, 25 and 26 years old, one of them married and the other single, are in jail here awaiting the action of the Rutherford County grand jury, which will be asked to indict them for the rape of a 16-year old colored high school girl on the evening of Tuesday, December 15th.

DEC 25 1942

Preliminary trial for the two men was held in the magistrate's court on Monday night, December 21, and after hearing a gruesome story of the condition of the girl, after the report she had been waylaid and attacked by the two men, as given by the attending physician, Dr. J. R. Gott (white), Magistrate Frank McCrary refused to grant bond to the men. The courtroom was crowded with spectators at the trial, the majority of whom were colored men and women, representing the religious and civic leadership of Murfreesboro. The law firms Holloway and Price, and Cummings and Middleston represented the high school girl.

DEC 25 1942

This story, now being written to appear in the Nashville Globe, will possibly be the first news the general public gets of this affair. The white daily and weekly newspapers circulated here have ignored the news of the rape, involving as it does the "character" of white men. However it is reported that when approached on the matter the white newspapers stated that they would refuse to print the story because of their desire to "protect" the name of the colored girl. They had no reply to an inquiry as to why they could not print the facts of the case and the trial without mentioning the girl's name as they were very likely to do if the girl were white.

At the trial in the magistrate's court, the school girl and the attending physician were the principal witnesses. The girl, who lives in a rural community and rides to the high school in Murfreesboro on a bus, states that it was while she was walking along the road from the main highway to her home a mile and a half away that the two white men in a car drove up beside her and stopped, and made a "proposition" to her involving money. She spurned them, she stated, and they drove on, but later stopped and she passed them. Later they caught up with her again and forced her to get in the car with them. After brutally attacking the girl several times, according to her testimony, they carried her to the home of the white family where her mother works and let her out in front of the house. The mother of the girl, who also testified in court, told of carrying the girl to the office of Dr. Gott for examination.

Dr. Gott's testimony, which was decisive in getting the two men held in jail without bond, dealt with the condition of the attacked girl; how badly she was lacerated and it was his professional opinion that the girl had been virtuous prior to the attack. He stated that he had handled many difficult labor cases during his career as a physician but had never seen one which left a mother in as bad a physical condition as that of the school girl following the criminal attacks.

Notwithstanding the refusal of newspapers here to give any publicity to the rape, it is a fact that Murfreesboro has never been more aroused nor found the best people here more humiliated over an act of criminality as the people are over this one. The white family for whom the school girl's mother works is active in the prosecution.

But the spearhead of the drive to bring the attackers of the girl to justice is composed of the local post of the American Legion, Dr. J. R. Patterson, commander, the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and practically all the churches, women's clubs and fraternal organizations.

DEC 25 1942

These groups held a mass meeting the night of December 18 and raised more than 100 as the beginning of a fund with which to employ lawyers and otherwise press for the prosecution of the two accused men to the fullest extent of the law.

It is nto known what defense the men will offer if they are eventually indicted and tried. Their lawyers did not let them testify in magistrate's court. Some significance, however, is attached to a statement of one of the defense lawyers who held that the girl could have prevented the men fro mattacking her if she had resisted to the limit of her strength. Lawyers for the girl retorted that the girl, or any girl of 16 could be frightened into submission by two men as big and strong as the accused.

The school girl's parents are farming people and highly respected. It is believed that she has received a nervous shock from her gruesome experience with the two white men from which she may never recover.

DEC 25 1942

The fact the school girl was attacked along the lonely road from her home to the bus line, has brought to attention again the "raw deal" that county and state authorities are giving colored parents and their children who must go from rural communities to the high school in Murfreesboro. They have ample bus facilities to carry all white children from their homes to Murfreesboro, but no school busses are provided for colored children and those who must go are not allowed to ride in the "white" busses.

DEC 25 1942

A long, hard fight has been made by colored leaders to get colored children accorded their right to ride in school busses but without success, so far.

37m-1942
Houston Post
Houston, Texas

TEXAS

6981

Vigilance of 300 Leads to Attempted Assault Charge

JUN 11 1942

Vigilance by 300 school children and mothers of a Parent-Teacher association resulted Wednesday in the arrest of a suspect in an attempted criminal attack on a 9-year-old girl.

The suspect, a 28-year-old route man for a laundry, was apprehended Tuesday night by A. C. Martindale, captain of the crime prevention department, while working on information supplied by the parents of one of the school children.

Charged With Assault

Police said the suspect had made a written statement. He has been charged with assault with intent to rape in a complaint filed with Justice W. C. Ragan.

The assault upon the girl occurred early the night of May 10 on a side road off the Galveston highway, police said. The girl told police the man asked her to help him get his automobile started and when she got in the car he kept her from screaming for help by thrusting three fingers down her throat. He then took her to the side road.

Parents Make Report

A report of the assault was made to police by the child's parents, and Mrs. Ruth Perry, woman investigator in the crime prevention department, went to Sutton school to enlist the aid of the school children in finding the attacker. A similar plea was made to the Parent-Teacher association.

JUN 11 1942

One of the parents sighted a man several days ago who fitted the description of the suspect and jotted down the automobile license of his car. The number was turned over to police, and Captain Martindale made the arrest.

6982

37m-1942

VIRGINIA

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

3 Va. Men Accused Of Attacking Girl

FEB 23 1942

Woodstock, Va., Feb. 22.—The arrest of three men and a 15-year-old girl in an isolated mountain cabin near here, led to charges of kidnaping and statutory rape against two cousins, both Shenandoah County men.

FEB 23 1942

Harold Polk, 25, according to the girl's mother, forced the girl to accompany him from her Wardensville, W. Va., home. His cousin, Russell Polk, 27, is in jail here charged with statutory rape of the girl, who is also being held for delinquency. The younger Polk and Orvall Ryman, also found at the cabin, have been turned over to West Virginia authorities.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

2 Richmond Girls Accuse Man, 23, In Attack Cases

Va.

JAN 23 1942

Richmond, Va., Jan. 22 (AP).—Two attractive young stenographers today picked a 23-year-old Norfolk Navy Yard worker out of a police line-up and said he fitted the description of the blond young man who last night attacked them in two separate attempts on northside Richmond streets.

37m

Detective Capt. O. D. Garton said that the man, listed as a Julius A. Denton, jr., 23, former Richmonder now working in Portsmouth, had been charged with attempted rape.

JAN 23 1942

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Charge White Man Raped Woman

AUG 29 1942

RICHMOND.—After a city-wide search for the man who was reported to have raped and robbed a Negro woman while threatening her life, police officers arrested Connie Washington, 21, and jailed him for preliminary hearing Saturday, August 15.

AUG 29 1942

According to the woman's story, Washington, whom she positively identified, carried her in a taxicab to a vacant field, forced her to disrobe and raped her. He is said to have threatened her with a knife at her throat if she screamed. The man also is accused of robbing the victim of $17 in cash, two rings and a watch, all valued at $150.

Another crime charged to Washington is that of breaking into a musicians' [illegible] and stealing $10 from Leon Fields, club manager, who was asleep, and breaking open a slot machine and taking $12.

37m-1942
Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

6983

SOLDIER TRAILED IN RAPE SLAYINGS

SEP 11 1942

Victim's Check Cashed; Army Number Taken.

SEP 11 1942

Tomah, Wis., Sept. 10 [Special].—The trail of the rapist-slayer or slayers of the two Kenosha women welfare workers found shot near here, was believed to have been definitely picked up today at Le Sueur, Minn., where a soldier cashed a check on the account of one of the victims.

The man exhibited the bank book of Miss Neil Pietrangeli, 25 years old, one of the slain women, and said he was driving her automobile. He declared that he was her sweetheart and was authorized to check on her account, both of which statements were vigorously denied by a member of Neil's family. SEP 11 1942

Soldier Tells of Ride.

Meantime, a soldier reported to police at Chippewa Falls, Wis., that on Monday night, the night of the slaying, he was picked up here and given a ride to Eau Claire by a soldier who drove an Oldsmobile which corresponded with the missing car and in which women's clothes were strewn around the back.

The man hunt was concentrated in Minnesota after J. P. Peterson, banker at Le Sueur, told of the check incident. Peterson said the soldier made out the check, signing his name and that of Miss Pietrangeli. The check was issued on the bank at Sparta, Wis. SEP 11 1942

Miss Pietrangeli was employed at Sparta as a case worker for a state children's school. Her slain companion, Miss Dorothy Baun, 32, was a case worker for the state parole board with headquarters at Eau Claire. They were killed Tuesday as they were on their way back to their jobs after spending the Labor day week-end with their families in Kenosha.

When the soldier was asked at the bank to identify himself he showed Peterson Miss Pietrangeli's bank book and a card showing that she was employed by the state of Wisconsin. He also asserted he had Miss Pietrangeli's car and offered to show it to Peterson. He showed no concern and answered all questions readily.

Gives Army Number.

The soldier signed his name as Robert Bailey and said he was stationed at Camp Robinson, Arkansas. He also showed Peterson his army identification tag bearing his serial number and the banker wrote the number on the check which was later sent to Sparta for clearing.

Peterson described the man as about 5 feet 10 inches tall, of medium build, and about 26 years old, altho the man said he was 22. The banker did not see the car nor a companion, but a merchant across the street from the bank said he saw the soldier and another man in soldier's uniform drive away from the bank.

The soldier's assertion that Miss Pietrangeli was his sweetheart was contradicted by Neil's older sister, Angeline, a foreign language instructor at the University of Illinois.

"That's an absolute lie," Angeline declared. "She didn't have any regular boy friends. And as for her authorizing any one to draw checks on her account, that's simply incredible. She gave the folks at home financial help and no one but herself ever was authorized to use her checkbook.

"Neil seldom ever picked up any one in her car, but occasionally, when she was making a long drive alone, she would give a lift to a soldier if he looked all right. She had given some soldier boys a ride home and they were very nice.

Decided to Quit Giving Lifts.

"But when she was home last she remarked that she wasn't going to do even that any more because of the stories going around about hitchhikers taking advantage of people. She made up her mind that it didn't pay.

"I don't believe she picked up any one on this trip because of two reasons. Altho she was a generous person she had decided not to do it any more, and she had company in the person of Miss Baun."

The Chippewa Falls soldier, who told of riding with a man who might have been one of the slayers, is Pvt. Edward Helgeson, who had come home on furlough from Newark, N. J. He had a railroad ticket to Chicago, thumbed an automobile ride that carried him to Tomah, and was waiting on the highway to hitch-hike another ride when a soldier in an Oldsmobile came along about midnight Monday.

Women's Clothing in Car.

When Helgeson got in and put his small grip in the back of the coupé, he noticed women's clothing there. The driver explained, Helgeson related, that the apparel belonged to his girl friend, who was also the owner of the car. He said the girl lived at Middleton, near Madison, and that he had taken the car without her consent.

Helgeson said the driver appeared intoxicated. Fearful of an accident, Helgeson asked to take the wheel. The other soldier consented and Helgeson drove to Eau Claire.

En route the soldier told him, Helgeson said, that he was in a tank corps at Fort Benning, Georgia, and that he was on his way to St. Paul. He said he would be returning on the same road about Thursday and offered to give Helgeson a ride back.

Shows Roll of Money.

When they arrived in Eau Claire the soldier asked Helgeson if he needed money and drew a roll of bills from his pocket, but Helgeson declined it. The two slain women were robbed of about $110.

Sometime after Helgeson reached his home he noticed in the newspapers the account of the murders and that a wide search was being made for an automobile such as the one in which he had rode to Eau Claire. He then went to the police station and told his story to Chief Ed Holtz.

Tying in with Helgeson's story was additional information disclosed here concerning the man in soldier's uniform who cashed a $10 check signed by Miss Baun at a Tomah filling station where he bought gasoline for an Oldsmobile Monday night.

Car Is Identified.

Ralph Hilger, owner of the Parkway café here, said that he and his brother-in-law, Glen Spears, stopped at the filling station to pick up a couple of tires and were there at the same time as was the soldier. Hilger, who formerly operated a car agency and drives an Oldsmobile, confirmed that the soldier drove the same kind of car as Miss Pietrangeli's missing machine.

After the uniformed man had bought the gasoline, Hilger related, he drank a bottle of root beer while he chatted with Hilger, Spears, and the station operator, Elmer Blado. He told them, Hilger said, that he had been in Georgia and had been in the armed services for five years. He spoke with a pronounced southern accent, Hilger said.

Hilger drove away from the station directly behind the uniformed man, and saw him turn into highway 12, which leads to Eau Claire and St. Paul, and saw him stop and pick up a soldier wearing an overseas cap and carrying a box or hand grip.

The hunt for the slayers near Gary, Ind., bogged down early today after bundles of women's clothing found in a wooded area near there was taken to Kenosha, where relatives of the victims were unable to identify the apparel.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

CHANGES STORY ABOUT SLAYING OF TWO WOMEN

SEP 15 1942

Now Admits He Had Accomplice.

BULLETIN.

Santa Maria, Cal., Sept. 14 (Special.)—Robert Taylor Bailey, 20 year old army deserter held here for the kidnap-slayings of two Wisconsin women welfare workers, admitted here tonight he had an accomplice in the slayings and that he and his companion raped both women before shooting them to death. Bailey said his companion was a man who escaped with him from a Mississippi reformatory in 1940. He said this man carried a selective service card giving an address on Canal street, New Orleans. In a previous signed confession Bailey denied that any one helped him with the shootings. The Wisconsin victims were Miss Neil Pietrangeli, 25, and Miss Dorothy Baun, 32. They were raped and shot Sept. 7 near Tomah, Wis.

SEP 15 1942

Minneapolis, Minn., Sept. 14 [Special].—Robert Taylor Bailey, 20 year old army deserter and confessed slayer of two Wisconsin women welfare workers near Tomah, Wis., on Sept. 7, it was revealed here today, was in the hands of Minneapolis police four days previously.

Bailey, now in custody awaiting Wisconsin authorities in Santa Maria, Cal., confesses he shot and killed Miss Neil John Pietrangeli, 25, and Miss Dorothy Baun, 32, and drove from Wisconsin to California in Miss Pietrangeli's automobile.

The police disclosure here cast doubt on phases of Bailey's statement dealing with his movements prior to the slayings. In this confession Bailey said he deserted from Fort Bragg, N. C., on Sept. 3, and hitch hiked to Chicago, spending the night of Sept. 5 in Chicago. He said he went to Madison, Wis., the next day, spent a night there, and was alone at 7:30 p. m. on Sept. 7 when the two women offered him a ride on a highway near Tomah.

Arrested in Restaurant.

In the light of new information, it now appears that Bailey actually deserted Sept. 1 and came at once to the Twin City area, police said.

Patrolman Herman Hanson of the Minneapolis police department found Bailey sleeping in a booth of an all night cafe on the night of Sept. 3. He awakened him and took him to a precinct station for questioning. Bailey produced his army identification records and said he was on a furlough and planned to visit his mother in Tacoma, Wash.

Hanson communicated with the provost marshal at Fort Snelling, where Bailey was given a clean bill of health so far as the army was concerned. It was explained that no word had yet reached Fort Snelling concerning Bailey's desertion two days previously. SEP 15 1942

Exhibits Railroad Ticket.

Bailey substantiated his story of an intended trip to Tacoma, Wash., by exhibiting a railroad ticket from Minneapolis to that city, Hanson said. The police took him to a railroad station and liberated him there.

In view of the belief of Wisconsin authorities that two persons took part in the slaying of the welfare workers, both of whom were raped, according to medical evidence, Minneapolis police now believe Bailey may have picked up a companion here and headed toward Wisconsin a short time after his release. Crime records of the days of Sept. 3 to 7 are being scanned with a view toward possible light on other activities by Bailey.

Denies Having Accomplice.

Santa Maria, Cal., Sept. 14 [Special].—With Wisconsin authorities on the way by plane to return him for trial

for his confessed kidnap-slayings of Miss Neil John Pietrangeli, 25 years old, and Miss Dorothy Baun, 32, Robert Taylor Bailey stuck today to his story that he had no accomplice in the crime.

SEP 15 1942

Bailey, a 20 year old army deserter, is held without bond in the city jail and has signed a waiver of extradition. Bailey signed a confession yesterday repudiating statements he made after his arrest here Saturday that a companion helped him kill the Wisconsin women and that he later killed the companion to silence him.

Girls Treated Kindly.

The two girls who accompanied Bailey from Sioux City, Ia., to Santa Maria said today that Bailey treated them kindly and generously thruout the trip. The girls, Alberta Coons, 16, and Mary Pauline Conley, 17, are at the home of Miss Coons' unicle, Cyril Simmeon, where Bailey delivered them safely Saturday morning.

Simmeon, a former police officer whose suspicions of Bailey led to the arrest, said Bailey apparently used the girls as a shield to reach California without being connected with the Wisconsin crime by authorities along the way.

SEP 15 1942

Bailey paid all expenses on the trip, buying them lunches and souvenirs and even buying them bracelets, the girls said. They said he told them his name was James Lofton and that he was going to California to join the marines.



[TRIBUNE Photo.]

SEP 15 1942

Gerald Everett Smith, 22, said to be a deserter from Fort Bragg, N. C., who was questioned by police in Niles yesterday about the slaying of two Wisconsin welfare workers. Another soldier has confessed the crimes.

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The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

LYNCHING RECORD FOR SIX MONTHS !

Editor Dabney,

Dear Sir:

I send you the following statement concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year, 1942 according to the information compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there was one lynching recorded in the first six months of 1942..

The person lynched was a Negro. The offense charged was: Suspected of criminal assault. The state in which the lynchng occurred is Missouri.

A reported case of a lynching in Texas is now under investigation.

Very truly yours,

F. D. PATTERSON,
President Tuskegee Institute.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

One Lynching In First 6 Months; Baby Born To Victim's Widow

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—According to Dr. F. D. Patterson, president, the Tuskegee Institute Department of Records and Research has record of one lynching in the first six months of 1942.

The person lynched was Cleo Wright, of Sikeston, Mo. The offense charged was suspicion of criminal assault.

"A reported case of lynching in Texas is now under investigation," Dr. Patterson reported.

MRS. WRIGHT HAS BABY

SIKESTON, Mo.—It has just been disclosed that Nanetta Jaline Wright was born to Mrs. Cleo Wright, widow of Cleo Wright, who was lynched here on January [illegible].

One Lynched Is Record Of Past 6 Mos.

"Savannah Tribune"

NEGRO ACCUSED OF CRIMINAL ASSAULT Savannah Ga. Was Killed By Mob In Missouri

Tuskegee, Alabama, July 9th—According to the records gathered by the Research Dept. of Tuskegee Institute and released today for publication, there was one lynching in the first six months of the year, 1942.

The person lynched was a Negro who was charged with being suspected of criminal assault. The lynching occurred in the state of Missouri.

A reported case of lynching in Texas is now under investigation.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Report Only One Lynching for 1942

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—The lynching of Cleo Wright in Sikeston, Mo., in January is the only recorded lynching for the first six months of 1942, according to information compiled at Tuskegee institute in the department of records and research.

A reported case of lynching in Texas is now under investigation.

Christian Recorder
Philadelphia, Pa.

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS, 1942

I send you the following statement concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the information compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there was one lynching recorded in the first six months of 1942.

The person lynched was a Negro. The offense charged was: Suspected of criminal assault. The state in which the lynching occurred is Missouri.

A reported case of a lynching in Texas is now under investigation.

Very truly yours,

F. D. Patterson, President.

The Northwest Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

Lynching Record for First Six Months, 1942

According to the information compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research there was one lynching recorded in the first six months of 1942.

The person lynched was a Negro. The offense charged was: Suspected of criminal assault. The state in which the lynching occurred in Missouri.

A reported case of a lynching in Texas is now under investigation.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Only One Lynching First Six Months

TUSKEGEE, Ala. (ANP)—One lynching was recorded [illegible] United States during the first six months this year, according to information released this week by the Tuskegee Institute Department of Records and Research.

The lynching referred to occurred in Sikeston, Missouri. The offense charged was suspicion of criminal assault.

A reported case of a lynching in Texas is now under investigation.

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

Missouri Has Only Lynch 1st Half '42

TUSKEGEE, ALA., July 15—All that kept the country from having its first lynchless half year in more than a decade, was the mob slaying of Cleo Wright at Sikeston, Mo., last January, according to a statement from Tuskegee. The Tuskegee Department of Records and Research in its report on lynchings for the first six months stated that the burning of Wright, who was suspected of criminal assault, was the only lynching record.

A reported case of a lynching in Texas is under investigation.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

Tuskegee Reports One Lynching In Country

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—(ANP)—Only one lynching occurred in the United States in the first half of 1942, compared with four in the similar 1941 period, Tuskegee Institute's Department of Records and Research reported Saturday.

Dr. F. D. Patterson, institute president, said in releasing the report the 1942 lynching victim was a Negro, suspected of criminal assault, and that he met death in Scott County, Missouri.

Patterson said while only one lynching had been listed officially as such by the widely known Negro institute, a reported case was under investigation in Texas.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

ONE LYNCHING ONLY IN 1942.

Editor, Constitution: I send you the following statement concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the information compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there was one lynching recorded in the first six months of 1942.

The person lynched was a Negro. The offense charged was: Suspected of criminal assault. The

state in which the lynching occurred is Missouri.

A reported case of a lynching in Texas is now under investigation.

Very truly yours,

F. D. PATTERSON, President.

Bay Minette, Ala., Times
July 23, 1942

The Lynching Record

■ There was only one lynching in the United States during the six months of this year and that one was not in the Southern states, according to Tuskegee Institute.

This is a fine record. And this is proof, if proof is needed, that the South can regulate its own society without the aid of Northern-sponsored, throat-ramming laws such as the proposed Federal Anti-Lynching Bill.

Lumpkin, Ga., Stewart-Webster Jnl.
July 30, 1942

One Lynching Reported For First Half Of Year

According to the annual report of Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research only one lynching occured in the United States the first of the year as compared with four in a similar period last year.

Dr. F. D. Patterson, Institute president, said in releasing the report the 1942 lynching victim was a negro, suspected of criminal assault, and that he met death in Scott county, Missouri.

Patterson said while only one lynching had been listed officially as such by the widely known negro institute, a reported case was under investigation in Texas.

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Forsyth, Ga., Advertiser
July 16, 1942

Lynching Gradually Being Diminished

That the public more fully realizes the disgrace connected with a lawless mob is shown by recent reports in regard to lynching. According to information compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of Records and Research, there was one lynching recorded in the first six months of 1942.

The person lynched was a Negro. The offense charge was, suspected of criminal assault. The lynching occurred in Missouri. A reported case of lynching in Texas is now under investigation.

Dalton, Ga., News
July 14, 1942

ONLY ONE LYNCHING THIS YEAR IN SOUTH

Law and order has taken the place of mob rule concerning violence and lynchings during the first six months of this year, according to a report from Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

The report states that only lynching took place in the U. S. during the first half of 1942.

That lynching occurred in Missouri, and the victim was a Negro, suspected of criminal assault.

Lynchings—of both colored and white men—have decreased considerably in the past few years, making the practice almost oliberated in the country today.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
July 11, 1942

Only One Lynching Reported This Year

F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., communicated a report to Macon yesterday showing that there was one lynching in the first six months of 1942 in the nation.

This was in Missouri where a Negro was "suspected of criminal assault." A reported case of lynching in Texas is now under investigation, Patterson said.

Birmingham, Ala. News
July 12, 1942

Tuskegee Reports One Lynching In Country

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—(AP)—Only one lynching occurred in the United States in the first half of 1942, compared with four in the similar 1941 period, Tuskegee Institute's Department of Records and Research reported Saturday.

Dr. F. D. Patterson, institute president, said in releasing the report the 1942 lynching victim was a Negro, suspected of criminal assault, and that he met death in Scott County, Missouri.

Patterson said while only one lynching had been listed officially as such by the widely known Negro institute, a reported case was under investigation in Texas.

New Orleans, La., Times-Picayune
July 12, 1942

LYNCHINGS DECLINE FIRST HALF OF YEAR

(The Associated Press)

Tuskegee, Ala., July 11.—Only one lynching occurred in the United States in the first half of 1942, compared with four in the similar 1941 period, Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research reported today.

Dr. F. D. Patterson, institute president, said in releasing the report the 1942 lynching victim was a Negro, suspected of criminal assault, and that he met death in Scott county, Missouri.

Patterson said a reported lynching was under investigation in Texas.

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
July 12, 1942

Only One Lynching In First Half of '42

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 11.—(AP)—Only one lynching occurred in the United States in the first half of 1942, compared with four in the similar 1941 period, Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research reported Saturday.

Dr. F. D. Patterson, institute president, said in releasing the report the 1942 lynching victim was a Negro, suspected of criminal assault, and that he met death in Scott County, Missouri.

Patterson said, while only one lynching had been listed officially as such by the widely known Negro institute, a reported case was under investigation in Texas.

Mobile, Ala., Register
July 12, 1942

Only 1 Lynching Listed For First Half Of 1942

TUSKEGEE, July 11.—(AP)—Only one lynching occurred in the United States in the first half of 1942, compared with four in the similar 1941 period, Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research reported today.

Dr. F. D. Patterson, institute president, said in releasing the report. the 1942 lynching victim was a negro, suspected of criminal assault, and that he met death in Scott County, Missouri.

Patterson said a reported lynching was under investigation in Texas.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
July 12, 1942

Only One Lynching Listed By Tuskegee

TUSKEGEE, ALA., July 11.—(AP)—The lynching of a negro, suspected of criminal assault, in Scott County, Mo., was the only lynching reported by Tuskegee Institute's Department of Records and Research today to have occurred in the United States during the first half of 1942.

Dr. F. D. Patterson, Institute president, said in releasing the report, that while this was the only case listed officially as a lynching, a reported case was under investigation in Texas.

The Institute listed four during the first half of last year.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
July 12, 1942

Savannah, Ga., Press
July 11, 1942

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
July 12, 1942

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
July 12, 1942

Columbus, Ga. Enquirer-Sun
July 12, 1942

Augusta, Ga. Herald
July 12, 1942

Huntsville, Ala., Times
July 12, 1942

Birmingham, Ala. News
July 12, 1942

Albeville, Ala., Herald
July 16, 1942

Cullman, Ala., Tribune
July 23, 1942

Blakeley, Ga., News
July 16, 1942

Ozark, Ala., Star
July 16, 1942

Winona, Miss. Times
July 17, 1942

McComb, Miss. Journal
July 14, 1942

Eufaula, Ala. Tribune
July 13, 1942

Crossville, Tenn. Chronicle
July 16, 1942

Lafayette, Ala., Sun
July 15, 1942

West Blocton, Ala., Enterprise
July 16, 1942

Eutaw, Ala., Democrat
July 16, 1942

Dawson, Ga., News
July 16, 1942

Evergreen, Ala., Courant
July 16, 1942

Commerce, Ga., News
July 16, 1942

Reidsville, N. C. Review
July 13, 1942

Lanett, Ala. Times
July 15, 1942

Nashville, Ga. Herald
July 23, 1942

Savannah, Ga., News
July 12, 1942

Savannah, Ga., News
July 12, 1942

Lumberton, N. C. Robesonian
July 13, 1942

Columbia, S. C. State
July 12, 1942

Moultrie, Ga., Observer
July 11, 1942

Ft. Meade, Fla., Leader
July 16, 1942

Ft. Payne, Ala. Times
July 15, 1942

Donaldsonville, La. Chief
July 18 ,1942

Winnsboro, S. C. News & Herald
July 30, 1942

Jackson, Miss., News
July 14, 1942

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Tuskegee Records Only One Lynching First Half of Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala., (ANP)—According to information compiled in the department of records and research here, one lynching took place in the first half of 1942. The person lynched, a Negro, was charged with criminal assault. The lynching took place in Missouri. They are also probing reports of a second lynching in Texas. The report was made public by President F. D. Patterson.

July 18 1942

Rockford, Ala., Chronicle
July 16, 1942

ONE LYNCHING RECORDED FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1942

According to the information compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, there was only one lynching recorded in the first six months of 1942.

The person lynched was a negro. The offense charged was: Suspected of criminal assault. The state in which the lynching occurred is Missouri.

A reported case of lynching in Texas is now under investigation.

6987

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
July 15, 1942

One Lynching in Six Months

Tuskegee Institute's half-year report on lynchings in 1942 can find only one lynching to record, that of a Negro in Missouri who was suspected of criminal assault. A reported lynching in Texas is still under investigation.

Only two better records in the first six months of a year have ever been reported. Tuskegee could find no lynchings in the first half of 1940 and none in the first half of 1938. Before 1940 had run its course, however, Tuskegee had recorded five lynchings, and before the end of 1939 it had recorded six. Something like this may have to be recorded for the whole of 1942 as the lynching of a Negro in Texarkana, Tex., on July 13 suggests.

Another question is worth keeping in mind. This good record of one lynching in the first six months of 1942 was made when the United States was at war. What happened in the World War period? For the years 1914, 1915 and 1916 the number of lynchings recorded by Tuskegee was, respectively, 52, 67, 54. But in 1917, when for the last nine months of the year the United States was at war, the number dropped to 38, a striking improvement for that period.

Then in 1918 the number rose sharply to 64, and in the post-war year of 1919 it rose again to the high figure of 83. After 1919 the curve turned downward again.

Many attempts have been made to explain these striking changes of a marked improvement in the first year of the World War, a marked deterioration in the second year and an even worse record in the post-war year. But aside from some theorizing about national concentration on the war in the first year and national restlessness after the war, the speculation has never produced definite conclusions.

The pattern of those years suggests that we may have more lynching trouble as we march deeper into the war. But that itself is merely something to watch. In the meantime, there is solid ground for encouragement in the striking improvement that has taken place between the two wars. The country was encouraged by the decline in lynchings to 38 in 1917. It has immeasurably more reason for encouragement in the record for the first half of 1942.

Roanoke, Ala., Leader
July 16, 1942

Report On Lynchings

Lynching is a crime for which there is absolutely no excuse, especially in a land that claims to be fighting for human rights and equal opportunities for all men under laws made by the people for the people.

Just so, there can be nothing said to condone the slugging of a Negro with a baseball bat as was done here recently, no matter what the grievance, unless the slugging was resorted to in self defense. The law is capable of handling all the differences that usually make for the lawless and violent "punishment" sometimes meted out against offending members of a minority group.

The semi-annual report of Tuskegee Institute on lynchings in the United States has just been released. During the first six months of this year, according to the report, only one lynching was recorded in the United States, and, believe it or not, that was not committed in one of the southern states that have been the targets of reformers along this and other social lines. A Negro was lynched in Missouri for the offense of being suspected of criminal assault. However, the report adds, a reported case of a lynching in Texas is now under investigation.

Records of late years conclusively show that the South, without any outside help, but through its own enlightened leadership, is well on the way to stamping out the evil of lynching altogether. In commenting on the South's progress in this respect, The Talladega Daily Home brings to mind a recent case that is familiar to all in this section of the state:

"The record vividly brought back to our minds the splendid attitude of our Clay County neighbors and of the state government in the case involving the attack-murder of a beloved Ashland lady.

"The two Negroes charged with the offense were given trials of absolute fairness in the town in which the murder occurred. Both were found guilty and one went to the electric chair.

"With his dying words he absolved the other Negro, who still lives while state authorities complete a careful and thorough-going investigation to determine whether he should be pardoned."

Getting a bit personal, The Home concludes by saying that the record established by the South in the first half of the current year is an effective answer to Mrs. Roosevelt and others like her who would brand us as barbarians and try to regulate our lives to suit their standards. Let us hope, in the name of simple American justice, that the South's effective answer to her critics may continue.

South Pittsburg, Tenn., Courier
July 16, 1942

Records Show One Lynched; One Suspected

FINDINGS AT TUSKEGEE FOR FIRST 6 MONTHS YEAR

One Negro Falls Into Hands of Mob In Missouri as Suspect of Criminal Assault—Reported Case In Texas Now Under Investigation.

A letter received yesterday from F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute at a city of the same name in Alabama, contains the lynching record for the first six months of 1942.

We quote from Dr. Patterson's letter as follows:

"I send you the following statement concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the information compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there was one lynching recorded in the first six months of 1942.

"The person lynched was a Negro. The offense charged was: Suspected of criminal assault. The state in which the lynching occurred is Missouri.

"A reported case of a lynching in Texas is now under investigation."

Spartanburg, S. C. Journal
July 11, 1942

Lynching Record

The records of the Tuskegee (Ala.) Institute show that for the first six months of 1942 but one lynching occurred, the victim being a negro lynched in the state of Missouri, although a "reported" case in Texas is under investigation. It would have been far better for the nation had the slate been kept clean for the first half of the year—and certainly thereafter.

There can be no justfication found for mob violence or for men taking the law into their hands to destroy human life or even inflict punishment on helpless individuals, black or white.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
July 15, 1942

Another Lynching!

Only a few days after Tuskegee Institute had released a report showing that according to its records there had been only one lynching in the first six months of this year—that instance having occurred in Missouri—there came a report that a Negro had been taken from a hospital in Texas and hanged by a group of white men.

Attempted criminal attack was the provocation for the lynching. The woman who had been assailed by a Negro is said to have declared that the man who was hanged looked like her assailant. There are reported to have been two other cases of attempted criminal assault in the community recently.

At any time such a taking of the law out of its regular and proper channels would be deeply deplorable, horrible as was the provocation. It is all the more so at this time when the nation is engaged in a great war for, among other things, the preservation of orderly justice.

Mob law is a blow at our national strength and unity, it is a terrible blot on our own record for legal justice and it aggravates problems in relations between our own people which already are very difficult. It is earnestly to be hoped that the state of Texas recognizes the gravity of these realities and acts accordingly.

Lexington, N. C., Dispatch
July 18, 1942

"UNDER INVESTIGATION"

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE department of records and research reports there was one lynching in the United States during the first six months of 1942. This occurred in Missouri, it reports, the victim being a negro "suspected of criminal assault." "A reported case of lynching in Texas is now under investigation," the statement from the noted negro school reports.

Perhaps the cautious tone of the report reflects something of the pounding this department received a year or so ago when it insisted there was a lynching in Gaston county. Despite the fact that all the young white men who murdered a negro while they were under the influence of liquor were convicted promptly and sentenced to long terms in prison, the department continued to insist that a lynching was involved. Who ever heard of all the guilty being apprehended and imprisoned in a genuine lynching, or lynching attempt, in the South or anywhere else? Perhaps the best evidence of a lynching is that nobody gets caught, or else the suspects are freed for lack of evidence. Even in case of conviction, such as in the Person county attempt, "the best people" put on terrific pressure to prevent carrying out of sentence. Nobody in Gaston county that we have ever heard of made any particular protest against the doling out of justice to the slayers.

There is a personal angle to this feeling here that the Tuskegee department needs to do its work more dispassionately and meticulously. The negro slain in Gaston county was a tenant of this writer's brother-in-law. We happened to visit the scene while his blood still remained splattered on the side of the newly painted farmhouse. We are convinced we learned the true facts involved. It was not a lynching. Gaston county officials protested the designation, and so did the governor of North Carolina, but Tuskegee officials stubbornly persisted. It is time to report a case "under investigation" before designation. Confidence will not return here until the Gaston county black mark is honestly wiped out.

Danville, Va., Register
July 18, 1942

NAZI SPIRIT OVER HERE

(Lynchburg News)

A few days ago the semiannual report of Tuskagee Institute dealing with the lynching record was published in the News. It showed that there was one lynching in the country in the first six months of 1942, and that in a border State, not in the South proper.

We were about to write the customary editorial—customary for some years now—about the decline of lynching, that crime that once blackened the name of this country, especially the Southern part of it, when Texas broke into the news and changed the tenor of the proposed editorial. There was a lynching at Texarkana.

It's done now. Nothing that can be said about it, and a plenty can be said not only about the fact that there was a lynching, but about the bestiality of it, will change anything. Something can, however, be done to lessen the humiliation of it, and perhaps to make it certain that another such crime will not be committed in that vicinity at least for a long time. The criminals can be sought out and punished as they deserve to be punished.

If that be done, and there isn't a great deal of, hope that it will be done, we can get on with editorials deunciatory of Nazi bestiality.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
July 19, 1942

Not A Sectional Issue

The report on lynching by the Tuskegee Institute for the first six months of this year shows that this horrible and inexcusable crime can no longer be treated as a sectional issue.

Only one lynching is reported for the period and it occurred in Missouri.

There has been in the past too much emphasis upon sectional aspects of this problem. The issue is a national one and should be treated from a national point of view.

Brunswick, Ga., News
July 11, 1942

ONLY ONE LYNCHING REPORTED

Tuskegee, Ala., July 11. (AP)—Only one lynching occurred in the United States in the first half of 1942, compared with four in the similar 1941 period, Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research reported today.

Dr. F. D. Patterson, institute president, said in releasing the report the 1942 lynching victim was a negro, suspected of criminal assault, and that he met death in Scott county, Missouri.

Pensacola, Fla. Journal
July 13, 1942

Lynching Record Not Bad

THE REPORT for the first half of 1942 by Tuskegee institute shows that only one lynching occurred, and that was in Missouri, a border state. The victim was a Negro, charged with attempted assault of a white woman.

With the troubles that have resulted from clashes among Negro soldiers and between Negro and white soldiers, one would expect the record of mob violence to have been greater. If the remainder of the year is as good, 1942 will go down in the records as one of the years with the lowest number of lynchings, despite belief that war tends to loosen morals.

Aiken, S. C., Standard & Review
July 15, 1942

ONLY ONE MAN LYNCHED FIRST HALF OF 1942

F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute states that the lynching record for the first six months of 1942, according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Record and Research, reveals the fact that there was only one lynching recorded in the United States in the first six months of this year.

The person lynched was a Negro. The offense charged was: Suspected of criminal assault. The state in which the lynching occurred is Missouri, President Patterson states that a reported case of a lynching in Texas is now under investigation.

Patterson's letter to the Standard Review contained no comment on the lynching situatio in the country, although conditions are much better tha they have been in past years.

Florence, S. C., Morning News
July 12, 1942

Letter To The Editor

Editor The Morning News: I send you the following statement concerning lynchings for the frist months of this year. I find ording to the information compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there was one lynching recorded in the first six months of 1942.

The person lynched was a negro. The offense charged was: Suspected of criminal assault. The state in which the lynching occurred is Missouri.

A reported case of a lynching in Texas is now under investigation.

F. D PATTERSON,
President.

Tuskegee Institute, July 9, 1942

Albany, Ga., Herald
July 11, 1942

One Lynching In Six Months In United States

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 11 (AP.—Only one lynching occurred in the United States in the first half of 1942, compared with four in the similar 1941 period, Tuskegee Institute's Department of Records and Research reported today.

Dr. F. D. Patterson, Institute president, said in releasing the report the 1942 lynching victim was a Negro, suspected of criminal assault, and that he met death in Scott county, Missouri.

Patterson said while only one lynching had been listed officially as such by the widely known Negro institute, a reported case was under investigation in Texas.

Lakeland, Ga., News
July 23, 1942

One Lynching Reported For First Half of Year

According to the annual report of Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research only one lynching occurred in the United States the first half of this year as compared with four in a similar period last year.

Dr. F. D. Patterson, Institute president, said in releasing the report the 1942 lynching victim was a negro suspected of criminal assault, and that he met death in Scott county Missiouri.

Patterson said while only one lynching had been listed officially as such by the widely known negro institute, a reported case was under investigation in Texas.

Westerma, Ga., [illegible]
July 16, 1942

One Lynching Reported During First 6 Months

One lynching was reported in the first six months of 1942, according to information compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research.

The person lynched was a Negro who was suspected of criminal assault. The lynching took place in Missouri.

A reported case of a lynching in Texas is now under investigation the Institute announced.

Wetumpka, Ala., Herald
July 16, 1942

Only One Lynching Listed By Tuskegee

Tuskegee, Ala., July 11 — The lynching of a negro, suspected of criminal assault, in Scott County, Mo., was the only lynching reported by Tuskegee Institute's Department of Records and Research today to have occurred in the United States during the first half of 1942.

Dr. F. D. Patterson, Institute president, said in releasing the report, that while this was the only case listed officially as a lynching, a reported case was under investigation in Texas.

The Institute listed four during the first half of last year.

Sandersville, Ga., Progress
July 16, 1942

Only One Lynching Recorded This Year

The Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute announced Saturday that only one lynching had occurred in the United States the first six months of the current year. The person lynched was a Negro suspected of criminal assault and he was put to death by a mob in Missouri.

Lynchings have decreased gradually during the past twenty years due to the alertness of law enforcement officers and the educational campaign to let the law take its course.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
July 13, 1942

Lynching in 1942

The Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, reports one lynching in the United States in the first six months of 1942. That one was in Missouri. While The News and Courier has not the confidence in these reports that it once had—last year Tuskegee made at least one absurd report of a lynching in South Carolina—it supposes that the present one is accurate. Of the lynching in Missouri is no doubt. The German Nazis have monopolized the lynching habit—they lynch men, women, too, sometimes children, by hundreds and thousands, when they burn a village. All American lynchers should be considered eligible to admission into the superior race which the Nazis say that they are.

37n(2)-1942
Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

6989

Five Negroes Meet Death At Hands of Lynch Mobs in 1942

JAN 2 - 1943

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala. — According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were 5 persons lynched in 1942. This is 1 more than the number 4 for the year 1941, the same as the number 5 for the year 1940, 2 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, and 1 less than the number 6 for the year 1938.

One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from the jail and hanged.

JAN 2 - 1943

Police Prevented 17 Lynchings

There were 15 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a Western state and 14 of the reported instances were in Southern states.

37n(2)-1942
Guardian
Boston, Mass.

5 PERSONS LYNCHED IN 1942

JAN 2 - 1943

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — Five persons were lynched during 1942, acording to the Tuskegee Department of Records and Research—one more than in 1941, the same as for 1940 and 2 more than in 1939. Some of these lynchings had atrocious features, one body dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile and burned.

There were 15 instances where lynchings were prevented by officers of the law, one in a western state. In one case a lynching was restrained by wives of the would-be-lynchers. 17 persons, 4 white men and 13 colored were saved from the mob.

JAN 2 - 1943

All persons lynched were colored, the offences charged being attempted criminal assault 1; suspected attempted rape 3; received life sentence where jury disagreed on punishment on a murder charge. Mississippi had 3 of the lynchings; Missouri 1; Texas 1.

Thomasville, Ga., Times-Enterprise
December 31, 1942

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE ISSUES INFORMATION ON LYNCHING IN 1942

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1942. I find, according to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were 5 persons lynched in 1942. This is 1 more than the number 4 for the year 1941, the same as the number 5 for the year 1940, 2 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, and 1 less than the number 6 for the year 1938. One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from the jail and hanged.

There were 15 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a western state and 14 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 13 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, a lynching was restrained by wives of the would-be lynchers. In another case, the sheriff dissuaded the mob. A total number of 17 persons—4 white men and 13 negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted criminal assault, 1; suspected attempted rape, 3; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Mississippi, 3; Missouri, 1; Texas, 1.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Lynchings Total Five In 1942

JAN 1 - 1943

Missouri, Texas Have One Each, Mississippi, 3

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—According to information compiled in the department of records and research at Tuskegee institute, there were five lynchings during the year, 1942.

In his annual release on lynchings, Dr. F. D. Patterson, Tuskegee president, said, "This is one more than the number 4 for the year 1941, the same as the number 5 for the year 1940, 2 more than the number 3 for the year 1939 and one less than the number 6 for the year 1938.

Recall Sikeston Lynching

"One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from the jail and hanged."

The person dragged through the streets behind a car and then burned was Cleo Wright, who was lynched at Sikeston, Mo., on Sunday, Jan. 25.

JAN 1 - 1943

15 Prevented

Dr. Patterson reported that there were 15 instances in which offciers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a mid-western state and 14 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 13 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken.

In one case, a lynching was restrained by wives of the would-be lynchers. In another case, the sheriff dissuaded the mob. A total number of 17 persons—4 white men and 13 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted criminal assault, 1; 2; suspected attempted rape, 3; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishment of on a murder charge, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Mississippi, 3; Missouri, 1; Texas, 1.

Kansas Miss., News
December 31, 1942

Mobs Lynch Five Persons in South During This Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—(UP)— Mobs lynched five persons in the United States during 1942, one more than last year, it was announced Wednesday by Tuskegee Institute officials on the basis of complete national records.

The lynchings all occurred in the south, and the victims were all negroes, according to the report. Mississippi was credited with three, and Missouri and Texas one each. In 15 other instances—one in the west and 14 in the south—lynchings were prevented by intervention of officers, the report pointed out.

Four of the five 1942 cases happened during the last six months of the year. One victim was accused of criminal assault, three suspected of attempted rape, and the other was killed after a jury failed to agree on the extent of punishment following his trial on murder charges.

Oneida, Tenn. News
January 1, 1943

FIVE WERE LYNCHED DURING THE YEAR '42

Report Furnished by Tuskegee Institute of Alabama.

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were 5 persons lynched in 1942. This is 1 more than the number 4 for the year 1941, the same as the number 5 for the year 1940, 2 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, and 1 less than the number 6 for the year 1938. One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streeets behind an automobile and body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from the jail and hanged.

There were 15 reports of instances in which officers of hte law prevented lunchings. One of the reported instances was in a western state and 14 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 13 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken In 1 case, a lynching was restrained by wives of the world-be lynchers. In another case, the sheriff dissuaded the mob. A total number of 17 persons—4 white men and 13 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were Negroes The offenses charged were: Atttempted criminal assault, 1; suspected attempted rape, 3; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge 1.

The state in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Mississippi, 3; Missouri, 1; Texas 1.

Milton, Fla., Gazette
December 31, 1942

FIVE LYNCHINGS IN 1942

Tuskegee, Ala.—According to the information compiled at Tuskegee Institute, there were five persons lynched in 1942.

This is one more than the number, four, for the year 1941; the same as the number, five, for the year 1940; two more than the number, three, for the year 1939; and one less than the number, six, for the year 1938.

One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and the body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from the jail and hanged.

There were 15 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a western state and 14 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 13 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, a lynching was restrained by wives of the would-be lynchers. In another case, the sheriff dissuaded the mob. A total number of 17 persons—four white men and 13 negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted criminal assault, 1; suspected attempted rape, 3; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Mississippi, 3; Missouri, 1; Texas, 1:

Cullman, Ala. Tribune
Jan. 7, 1943

Five Persons

1942 Lynched In 1942

According to a report made by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, five persons were lynched in the U. S. during 1942. The states in which the lynchings occured were Mississippi, 3; Missouri, 1; Texas, 1. All persons lynched were negroes.

The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

KNOWN LYNCHINGS FOR 1942

Tuskegee,
December 22, 1942

JAN 1 - 1943

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1942. I find, according to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were 5 persons lynched in 1942. This is 1 more than the number 4 for the year 1941, the same as the number 5 for the year 1940, 2 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, and 1 less than the number 6 for the year 1938. One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was take from the jail and hanged.

There were 15 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a western state and 14 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 13 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, a lynching was restrained by wives of the would-be lynchers. In another case, the sheriff dissuaded the mob. A total number of 17 persons—4 white men and 13 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

JAN 1 - 1943

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted criminal assault, 1; suspected attempted rape, 3; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Mississippi, 3; Missouri, 1; Texas, 1.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON,
President.

Five Lynchings In Country In 1942

One More Than '41

TUSKEGEE.—(ANP)—The fight against lawlessness for the year 1942 reached 1940's level, with lynchings for the twe years identical in number, five each. Four lynchings occurred in 1941; 1939 had three, and six was the high reached in 1938, according to a report released recently by Tuskegee institute.

Of the five persons lynched in 1942, one was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and burned, another dragged behind an automobile while still alive, to the edge of town where he was hanged from a cotton gin winch; and another forcibly taken from the jail where he was, and hanged.

JAN 9 - 1943

Tuskegee's report notes that the year brought 15 reports of instances in which police officers prevented lynchings, once in a western state and the remaining in southern states. In 13 instances persons were removed from jails or guards augmented to prevent lynchings, and in another case a lynching was restrained by wives of the would-be lynchers.

JAN 9 - 1943

Lynchings took place in the following states: Mississippi, 3; Missouri, 1; Texas 1. All persons lynched were Negroes, and offenses charged ranged from attempted criminal assault to dissatisfaction with the life sentence imposed by a jury for a murder charge.

Bennettsville (S. C.) Herald
January 7, 1943

Five Lynchings During This Year

According to the information Records and Research of Tuskegee nstitute, Tuskegee, Ala., there were 5 persons lynched in 1942. This is 1 more than the number 4 for the year 1941, the same as the number 5 for the year 1940, 2 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, and 1 less than the number 6 for the year 1938. One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from the jail and hanged.

There were 15 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a western state and 14 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 13 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, a lynching was restrained by wives of the would-be lynchers. In another case, the sheriff dissuaded the mob. A total number of 17 persons—4 white men and 13 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted criminal assault, 1; suspected attempted rape, 3; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Mississippi, 3; Missouri, 1; Texas, 1.

Ashland, Ala. Progress
January 7, 1943

Five Persons Lynched During Past Year

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee Institute, there were five persons lynched in 1942. There were four lynched in 1941, five in 1940, three in 1939 and six in 1938.

All persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted criminal assault, 1; suspected attempted rape, 3; murder, 1. The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state were, Mississippi, 3; Missouri and Texas, 1 each.

Clanton, Ala. News
Jan 21, 1943

FIVE LYNCHINGS REPORTED IN 1942

There were 5 persons lynched in 1942. This is one more than the number 4 for the year 1941, the same as the number five for the year 1940, 2 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, and 1 less than the number 6 for the year 1938. One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from the jail and hanged.

There were 15 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a western state and 14 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 13 instances persons were removed or gaurds augmented or other precautions taken In 1 case, a lynching was restrained by wives of the would-be lynchers. In another case, the sheriff dissuaded the mob. A total number of 17 persons—4 white men and 13 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted criminal assualt, 1; suspected attempted rape, 3; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Mississippi, 3; Missouri, 1; Texas, 1.

5 LYNCHED IN 1942, ALL NEGROES: 15 SAVED FROM MOBS BY POLICE

Jan. 2, 1943

information compiled in the department of Records and Research reveals that there were five persons lynched during the year 1942 in the South. States in which lynchings occurred were Mississippi, Missouri, and Texas and all persons killed were Negroes.

In Mississippi three-lynchings occurred, and there was one each in Texas and Missouri. The offenses charged were attempted criminal assault, one suspected of rape, three; received life sentence when a jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, one.

Dragged Thru Streets

One of the lynched persons were dragged through the streets behind an automobile and his body was burned. Another body was hauled through the streets behind a speeding car to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. Still another person was forcibly removed from jail and hanged.

Jan. 2, 1943

There were 15 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One case was in a western state and the others occurred in 14 southern states. In one instance the violence was restrained by wives of the would-be mobsters and in another case the sheriff dissuaded the mob.

37 in 2

The number killed in 1942 is one more that the four lynchings in 1941. In 1940 there were five lynched and in 1939 six died from mob violence.

37n(2)-1942

6991

Shelby, N. C. Star
December 29, 1942

LYNCHING AND STATISTICS

Report of the Tuskegee institute as of the end of 1942 showing that five persons were lynched during the year as compared with four the previous year does not, we take it, mean that the awless spirit prompting such heinous offenses had a 25 per cent upsurgence during the year. Deductions from figures are always dangerous, particularly so when the figures are so small. Neither are we to gather, we suppose, that because there were 15 instances in the same report where officers of the law prevented lynchings that mob violence is one fifth as powerful as the force that combats it. Five lynchings—15 prevented, however mathematically argumentative, do not by any means tell the story. For no one can be sure of what is potential mob violence nor tell how often the leaven of good citizenship has worked to prevent such high crimes.

All we can be sure of from these figures is that the crime of taking the law in private hands is still a force to be contended with. It is not to be dealt with under the law of statistics. In fact, it seems difficult to deal with it under any laws.

Sumter, S. C., Daily Item
December 31, 1942

Tuskegee Reports Five Lynchings During 1942

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Reserve at Tuskegee Institute, there were 5 persons lynched in 1942. This is one more than the number 4 for the year 1941, the same as the number 5 for the year 1940, 2 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, and one less than the number 6 for the year 1938. One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from the jail and hanged.

There were 15 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a western state and 14 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 13 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, a lynching was restrained by wives of the would-be lynchers. In another case, the sheriff dissuaded the mob. A total number of 17 persons—4 white men and 13 negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted criminal assault, 1; suspected attempted rape, 3; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Mississippi, 3; Missouri, 1; Texas, 1.

Ozark, Ala., Star
December 31, 1942

Five Persons Lynched In 1942

According to the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee Institute there were 5 persons lynched in 1942. This is one more than the number 4 for the year 1941, the same as for the year 1940; two more than in 1939 and one less than in 1938.

There were 15 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings.

All of the 5 persons lynched were negroes. The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Mississippi, 3; Missouri, 1; Texas, 1.

Hill.-S. C. Herald
December 31, 1942

FIVE LYNCHINGS FOR PAST YEAR

Tuskegee Institute Releases Report Made Of These Cases

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., announced today that according to the information compiled in its Department of records and research, there were five persons lynched in 1942.

This is one more than the number for the year 1941, the same as the number for the year 1940, two more than for the year 1939, and one less than the number for the year 1938.

"One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from the jail and hanged.

"There were 15 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a western state and 14 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 13 intsances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, a lynching was restrained by wives of the would-be lynchers. In another case the sheriff dissuaded the mob. A total number of 17 persons — four white men and 13 negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

"All persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted criminal assault, one; suspected attempted rape, three; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, one.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Mississippi, three; Missouri, one; Texas, one," the report concluded.

Richmond Va., Times-Dispatch
December 31, 1942

Lynchings in 1942: Five

Editor of The Times-Dispatch,
Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1942. I find, according to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were five persons lynched in 1942. This is one more than the four for the year 1941, the same as the number five for the year 1940, two more than the number three for the year 1939, and one less than the number six for the year 1938. One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and the body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from the jail and hanged.

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All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted criminal assault, one; suspected attempted rape, three; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, one.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Mississippi, three; Missouri, one; Texas, one.

F. D. PATTERSON.
President, Tuskegee Institute,
Tuskegee, Ala.

Savannah, Ga., Press
December 31, 1942

FIVE LYNCHINGS OCCURRED IN '42

ALL OF VICTIMS WERE NEGROES, TUSKEGEE REPORTS

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31 (AP)—Five persons, all negroes, were lynched during 1942, President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute announced today in the school's annual lynching report.

The reports compiled by the college's department of records and research revealed that the lynchings occurred in Mississippi, Missouri and Texas. Three were in Mississippi, and one each in Texas and Missouri.

The annual report showed that four persons were lynched in 1941 and five in 1940. It added that in 15 instances this year officers of the law prevented lynchings.

In 13 other instances, the report continued, persons were removed or guards augmented to prevent lynchings.

Waynesboro, Ga., Citizen
December 31, 1942

No Lynchings In Georgia For Year 1942

According to the Department of Records and Research, there were 5 persons lynched in 1942. This is 1 more than the number 4 for the year 1941, the same as the number 5 for the year 1940, 2 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, and 1 less than the number 6 for the year 1938. One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from the jail and hanged.

There were 15 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a western state and 14 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 13 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, a lynching was restrained by wives of the would-be lynchers. In another case, the sheriff dissuaded the mob. A total number of 17 persons—4 white men and 13 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted criminal assault, 1; suspected attempted rape, 3; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Mississippi, 3; Missouri, 1; Texas, 1.

Statesville, N. C. Daily
December 31, 1942

Five Persons Are Lynched In 1942

According to the information compiled in the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute there were 5 persons lynched in 1942. This is 1 more than the number 4 for the year 1941, the same as the number 5 for the year 1940, 2 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, and 1 less than the number 6 for the year 1938. One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from the jail and hanged.

There were 15 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a western state and 14 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 13 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, a lynching was restrained by wives of the would-be lynchers. In another case, the sheriff dissuaded the mob. A total number of 17 persons—4 white men and 13 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted criminal assault, 1; suspected attempted rape, 3; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Mississippi, 3; Missouri, 1; Texas 1.

Thomaston, Ga., Times
December 31, 1942

5 NEGROES LYNCHED IN SOUTH DURING 1942; 4 IN 1941

Five negroes were lynched during 1942 and fifteen more attempts at lynching were made but were prevented, the annual report from F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute points out.

The negroes lynched were charged with attempted criminal assault, 1; suspected attempted rape, 3; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, 1.

Three of the lynchings occured in Mississippi, another in Missouri and the last in Texas.

One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from the jail and hanged.

Only four persons were lynched in 1941, the negro college president points out.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Five Lynched In 1942, Says 'Skegee Report

DEC 27 1942

Seventeen Mob Violences Were Halted By Police

Five persons, all colored, were lynched in 1942, according to findings released Saturday by Dr F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute.

Dr. Patterson's data, obtained from the school's department of records and research, shows that there were 17 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings.

The five persons lynched in this country in 1942 shows an increase over the 1941 lynching total. Only four persons were lynched in 1941, according to Dr. Patterson's report.

Dr. Patterson points out that there were five lynchings in 1940, three in 1939 and six in 1938.

Referring to the lynchings in 1942, Dr. Patterson's report says that "One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and the body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and was hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from jail and hanged."

Dr. Patterson's report reveals that there were three lynchings in 1942 in Mississippi, one in Missouri and one in Texas. The offenses charged were three cases of attempted rape, attempted criminal assault and murder. In the latter case, the jury failed to agree upon the type of punishment.

The 13 colored men and four white men saved from the hands of violent mobs, according to Dr Patterson, were the results of suspects being removed from one jail to another, guards augmented, pleas made by the wives of would-be lynchers and law officers dissuading the mobs.

Columbia, Tenn., Daily
January 1, 1943

5 LYNCHINGS ARE REPORTED DURING 1942

3 KILLED BY MOBS IN MISSISSIPPI, ONE IN TEXAS, ONE IN MISSOURI.

(By United Press.)

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., Jan. 1.—According to information compiled in the department of records and research, five negroes were lynched in the United States in 1942, F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, reported today. The total was an increase of one over 1941.

Three of the lynchings occurred in Mississippi, one in Texas and one in Missouri, the report said.

There were 15 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a Western state and 14 were in Southern states. In 13 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, a lynching was restrained by wives of the would-be lynchers. In another case, the sheriff dissuaded the mob. A total number of 17 persons—four white men and 13 negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Covington, Tenn. Leader
January 7, 1943

Lynch Five Negroes In U. S. During 1942

Five negroes were lynched in the United States during 1942, according to information compiled by Tuskegee Institute from the Department of Records and Research and released for publication this week. This compares with previous years as follows: four in 1941; five in 1940; three in 1939; and six in 1938.

One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and the body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobilee to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from jail and hanged.

There were 15 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of these instances was in a Western state and 14 were in Southern states. In 13 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, a lynching was restrained by wives of the would-be lynchers. In another case, the sheriff dissuaded the mob. A total of 17 persons—four white and 13 negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched in 1942 were negroes. The offenses charged were attempted criminal assault, suspected attempted rape. One had received a life sentence when the jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge. The states in which the lynchings occurred were: Mississippi, three; Missouri, one and Texas, one.

Mooresville, N. C. Enterprise
January 7, 1943

FIVE PERSONS ARE LYNCHED IN 1942.

According to the information compiled in the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute there were 5 persons lynched in 1942. This is 1 more than in 1941, the same as the number 5 for the year 1940, 2 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, and 1 less than the number 6 for the year 1938. One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from jail and hanged.

There were 15 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a western state and 14 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 13 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, a lynching was restrained by wives of the would-be lynchers. In another case, the sheriff dissuaded the mob. A total number of 17 persons—4 white men and 13 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted criminal assault, 1; suspected attempted rape, 3; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Mississippi, 3; Missouri, 1; Texas, 1.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

U.S. Lynches Five, 1940 Level Reached

JAN 3 - 1943

TUSKEGEE, Dec. 31—(ANP)—The fight against lawlessness for the year 1942 reached 1940's level, with lynchings for the two years identical in number, five each. Four lynchings occurred in 1941; 1939 had three, and six was the high reached in 1938, according to a report released last week by Tuskegee Institute.

Of the five persons lynched in 1942, one was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and burned, another dragged behind an automobile, while still alive, to the edge of town where he was hanged from a cotton gin winch; and another forcibly taken from the jail where he was and hanged.

Tuskegee's report notes that the year brought 15 reports of instances in which police officers prevented lynchings, once in a western state and the remainder in southern states. In 13 instances persons were removed from jails or guards augmented to prevent lynchings, and in another case a lynching was restrained by wives of the would-be lynchers.

Lynchings took place in the following states: Mississippi, 3; Missouri, 1; Texas, 1. All persons lynched were Negroes, and offenses charged ranged from attempted criminal assault to dissatisfaction with the life sentence im-

posed by a jury for a murder charge.

Camp Hill, Ala., News
December 31, 1942

FIVE LYNCHINGS TOOK PLACE IN U. S. IN 1942

According to the Tuskegee Institute report, there were five persons lynched in the United States this year. All were negroes. Three of the lynchings were in Mississippi, one in Missouri and one in Texas.

There were fifteen instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Four white men and thirteen negroes were saved from death.

37n(2)-1942

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South Pittsburg, Tenn., Tribune
January 7, 1943

Lynching Step Up One Notch For Year 1942

ACCORDING TO INFORMATION COMPILED IN DEPT. OF R&R

All Persons Lynched Were Negroes and State of Mississippi Leads With Three—Missouri and Texas Have One Each.

As has been his custom for years, President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute, in the city of the same name in Alabama, gives the press full details of lynchings for 1942.

"I find, according to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research," writes the college president, "that there were five persons lynched in 1942. This is one more than the number four for the year 1941, the same as the number five for the year 1940, two more than the number three for the year 1939, and one less than the number six for the year 1938. One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from the jail and hanged.

There were fifteen reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a western state and fourteen of the reported instances were in southern states. In thirteen instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, a lynching was restrained by wives of the would-be lynchers. In another case, the sheriff dissuaded the mob. A total number of seventeen persons—four white men and thirteen Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted criminal assault, one; suspected attempted rape, three; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Mississippi, three; Missouri, one; Texas, one.

Dr. Patterson Releases Lynch Report To Nation

JAN 2 - 1943

HOUSTON—F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, has released the following statement on lynchings in 1942:

"I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1942. I find, according to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were 5 persons lynched in 1942. This is 1 more than the number 4 for the year 1941, the same as the number 5 for the year 1940, 2 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, and 1 less than the number 6 for the year 1938. One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from the jail and hanged.

"There were 15 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a western state and 14 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 13 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented other precautions taken. In 1 case, a lynching was restrained by wives of the would-be lynchers. In another case, the sheriff dissuaded the mob. A total number of 17 persons—4 white men and 13 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

"All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were attempted criminal assault, 1; suspected attempted rape, 3; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, 1.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Mississippi, 3; Missouri, 1; Texas, 1.

and thirteen Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched wer eNegroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted criminal assault, one; suspected attempted rape, three; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Mississippi three; Missouri, one; Texas, one.

Very Truly yours,
F. D. Patterson.

(EDITORIAL NOTE: The Informer differs with findings of Tuskegee to the extent that its records show that there was an additional lynching in Texas, to-wit: at Brookshire, Texas, where Howard Wilpitz was chased into a toilet and shot by a mob of armed white people. The immediate charge was resisting arrest and the original offense grew out of a disturbance, variously said to have been over Wilpitz being drunk and over his having had an altercation in a [illegible]

JAN 9 - 1943

Aiken, S. C., Standard & Review
January 1, 1943

FIVE PERSONS LYNCHED IN U. S. IN YEAR 1942

F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute has forwarded to the Standard and Review the following data concerning lynchings in the United States for the year 1942. He reports that according to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were five persons lynched in 1942.

In explanation, the statement is made that, there is 1 more than the number 4 for the year 1941, the same as the number 5 for the year 1940, 2 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, and 1 less than the number 6 for the year 1938. One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from the jail and hanged.

All persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged: Attempted criminal assault, 1; suspected attempted rape, 3; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, 1.

Dadeville, Ala., Record
December 31, 1942

FIVE LYNCHINGS TOOK PLACE IN U. S. IN 1942

According to the Tuskegee Institute report, there were five persons lynched in the United States this year. They were all negroes. Three of the lynchings were in Mississippi, one in Missouri and one in Texas.

There were fifteen instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Four white men and thirteen negroes were thus saved from death.

Fayetteville, Tenn., News
December 31, 1942

5 Persons Lynched During Past Year

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were five persons lynched in 1942. This is one more than the number four for the year 1941, the same as the number five for the year 1940, two more than the number three for the year 1939, and one less than the number six for the year 1938. One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from the jail and hanged.

There were fifteen reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a Western State and fourteen of the reported instances were in Southern States. In thirteen instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, a lynching was restrained by wives of the would-be lynchers. In another case, the sheriff dissuaded the mob. A total number of seventeen persons—four white men and thirteen negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted criminal assault, one; suspected attempted rape, three; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, one.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Mississippi, three; Missouri, one; Texas, one.

Batesville, Ala. Tribune
December 31, 1942

Five Lynchings Reported In '42

Three In Mississippi, One In Missouri And One In Texas Listed

Five lynchings occurred during the past year, according to Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute. In a letter to The Tribune Dr. Patterson lists the lynchings and their causes as follows:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1942. I find, according to the information compiled in the department of records and research, there were five persons lynched in 1942. This is one more than the number four for the year 1941, the same as the number five for the year 1940, two more than the number three for the year 1939, and one less than the number six for the year 1938. One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from the jail and hanged.

There were 15 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a Western state and 14 of the reported instances were in Southern states. In 13 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, a lynching was restrained by wives of the would-be lynchers. In another case, the sheriff dissuaded the mob. A total number of 17 persons—four white and 13 negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted criminal assault, 1; suspected attempted rape, 3; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Mississippi, 3; Missouri, 1; Texas, 1.

Darlington, S. C. News & Press
December 31, 1942

5 Lynchings

A Warrior (Rt. 1) boy, 12, was killed by a 20-foot fall from a tree while hunting squirrel in this county Monday afternoon, Coroner Hugh Mann said today.

The Prattville Progress has a "Indian Grave" correspondent who reported In 1942

President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute states that there were 5 persons lynched in 1942—one more than for the year 1941, and the same number as for 1940. All persons lynched were Negroes.

Forsyth, Ga., Advertiser
December 31, 1942

Lynching Report Is Made Public

—v—

The Monroe Advertiser has received the following report from Tuskegee Institute:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1942. I find, according to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were 5 persons lynched in 1942. This is 1 more than the number 4 for the year 1941, the same as the number 5 for the year 1940, 2 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, and 1 less than the number 6 for the year 1938. One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from the jail and hanged.

There were 15 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a western state and 14 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 13 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, a lynching was restrained by wives of the would-be lynchers. In another case, the sheriff dissuaded the mob. A total number of 17 persons—4 white men and 13 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted criminal assault, 1; suspected attempted rape, 3; received life sentneces when jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Mississippi, 3; Missouri, 1; Texas, 1.

Williston, S. C., Way
January 1, 1943

1942 Lynching Record.

Five persons, all negroes, were lynched in 1942, according to information compiled at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. The crimes charged were: Attempted criminal assault, 1; suspected attempted rape, 3; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, 1. Three of the lynchings occurred in Mississippi, one in Missouri and one in Texas. In 15 other instances, four white men and 13 negroes were saved from the hands of mobs.

Tuskegee Reports 5 Lynchings

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.
JAN 2 - 1943

Five persons, all Negroes, were lynched in 1942, according to the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee Institute.

In making public the lynching record for the year President F. D. Patterson issued the following statement:

"I find, according to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were five persons lynched in 1942. This is one more than the number four for the year 1941, the same as the number 5 for the year 1940, 2 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, and 1 less than the number 6 for the year 1938. One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from the jail and lynched.

"There were 15 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a western state and 14 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 13 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, a lynching was restrained by wives of the would be lynchers. In another case, the sheriff dissuaded the mob. A total number of 17 persons—4 white men and 13 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

JAN 2 - 1943

"All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted criminal assault, 1; suspected attempted rape, 3; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, 1.

JAN 2 - 1943

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Mississippi, 3; Missouri, 1; Texas, 1."

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

Five Were Lynched In 1942 Year

JAN 1 - 1943

LETTER FROM DR. PATTERSON

"I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1942. I find, according to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were 5 persons lynched in 1942. This is 1 more than the number 4 for the year 1941, the same as the number 5 for the year 1940, 2 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, and 1 less than the number 6 for the year 1938. One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from the jail and hanged.

JAN 1 - 1943

There were 15 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a western state and 14 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 13 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, a lynching was restrained by wives of the would-be lynchers. In another case, the sheriff dissuaded the mob. A total number of 17 persons—4 white men and 13 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted criminal assault, 1; suspected attempted rape, 3; received life sentence when the jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, 1.

JAN 1 - 1943

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Mississippi, 3; Missouri, 1; Texas, 1.

Very truly yours, F. D. Patterson, President, Tuskegee Institute.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Tuskegee Reports Five Lynchings

JAN 2 - 1943

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala. —Five persons, all of them colored, were lynched in 1942, three in Mississippi and one each in Texas and Missouri, the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute announced last week.

The nation's lynching record, according to the report, tops last year's by one, ties the score of 1940, is two more than the total for 1939 and one less than the six lynched in 1938.

JAN 2 - 1943

Fifteen instances are reported in which lynchings were prevented by officers of the law. Charges against this year's victims included attempted criminal assault, 1; suspected attempted attack, 8, and one victim who had received a life sentence when the jury failed to agree.

Columbus, Ga., Enquirer-Sun
January 1, 1943

Only 5 Lynchings Reported In 1942

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31 —(AP)—Five persons, all negroes, were lynched during 1942, President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee institute announced today in the school's annual lynching report.

The reports compiled by the college's department of records and research revealed that the lynchings occurred in Mississippi, Missouri and Texas. Three were in Mississippi, and one each in Texas and Missouri.

The annual report showed that four persons were lynched in 1941 and five in 1940. It added that in 15 instances this year officers of the law prevented lynchings.

In 13 other instances, the report continued, persons were removed or guards augmented to prevent lynchings.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
January 1, 1943

Five Lynched In '42, Tuskegee Reports

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Jan. 1.—(AP)—Five persons, all Negroes, were lynched during 1942, President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute announced Thursday in the school's annual lynching report.

The reports compiled by the college's department of records and research revealed that the lynchings occurred in Mississippi, Missouri and Texas. Three were in Mississippi, and one each in Texas and Missouri.

The annual report showed that four persons were lynched in 1941 and five in 1940. It added that in 15 instances this year officers of the law prevented lynchings.

In 13 other instances, the report continued, persons were removed or guards augmented to prevent lynchings.

Columbus, Ga., Ledger
January 1, 1943

Officers Prevent Fifteen Lynchings

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Jan. 1—(AP)—Five persons, all negroes, were lynched during 1942, President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee institute announced today in the school's annual lynching report.

The reports compiled by the college's department of records and research revealed that the lynchings occurred in Mississippi, Missouri and Texas. Three were in Mississippi, and one each in Texas and Missouri.

The annual report showed that four persons were lynched in 1941 and five in 1940. It added that in 15 instances this year officers of the law prevented lynchings.

In 13 other instances, the report continued, persons were removed or guards augmented to prevent lynchings.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
January 1, 1943

Five Persons Lynched In 1942, Says Report

TUSKEGEE, Ala., [AP]—Five persons, all Negroes, were lynched during 1942, President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute announced Thursday in the school's annual lynching report.

The reports compiled by the college's department of records and research revealed that the lynchings occurred in Mississippi, Missouri and Texas. Three were in Mississippi, and one each in Texas and Missouri.

The annual report showed that four persons were lynched in 1941 and five in 1940. It added that in 15 instances this year officers of the law prevented lynchings.

In 13 other instances, the report continued, persons were removed or guards augmented to prevent lynchings.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
January 1, 1943

FIVE LYNCHINGS IN U. S IN '42 COUNTED

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31—(AP)—Five persons, all Negroes, were lynched during 1942, President F. D. Patterson, of Tuskegee Institute, announced Thursday.

The reports compiled by the college's department of records and research revealed that three lynchings occurred in Mississippi and one each in Texas and Missouri.

The annual report showed that four persons were lynched in 1941 and five in 1940. It added that in 15 instances this year officers of the law prevented lynchings.

In 13 other instances, the report continued, persons were removed or guards augmented to prevent lynchings.

37n(2)-1942

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Still A Land Of Lynching

Atlanta Daily World

FROM the records gathered at Tuskegee, it is officially announced that during the past year we have had five lynchings. That is five too many.

JAN 2 1943

Lynching belongs to the dark ages and surely has no place in a country like ours. Here we have the Constitution that we do not need some sort of remedial legislation of justice.

37n2

Five is an alarming figure in the face of the contention that we do not need some sort of remedia legislation penalizing those who lynch or allow it to be done. It is conclusively shown that as long as the federal government stands idly by, the enemies of government are going to persist in the pastime of lynching. Just so long as they do this, our good offices as a world champion of peace will be menaced and our every effort at effective preachments of the four freedoms will be neutralized.

The federal government can never reach out a most effective hand in this all out war effort until this brand of saboteurs is removed from the land and the lynching yell is extinguished forever.

Dothan, Ala., Eagle
December 29, 1942

Still Have Lynching

Anniston Star,

Perhaps some gratification is found by Southerners in the fact that only five murders in the South this year were classified as lynchings in the annual Tuskegee Institute report. At least, Alabama can look the rest of the nation straight in the eye, since none of the lynchings occurred in this state.

Mississippi led the list again with three, while Missouri had one and Texas one.

In addition fifteen reports were checked by the institute in which law officers were said to have prevented lynchings. One mob was thwarted in the West, the other 14 in the South.

While this report is definitely good, it is not good enough. Until lynchings are done away with in the South entirely, we cannot find satisfaction. Law officers are to be congratulated for their part in saving the lives of 17 persons, four white men and thirteen Negroes. In most cases extra precautions had been taken to avoid lynching by removing prisoners to places of greater safety or, augmented guards were thrown around jails in which they were held.

Great brutality was shown by mobs in two cases. One lynched Negro was dragged through public streets at the back of an automobile and his body was burned. Another body was dragged along public streets by a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged.

This is a display of the worst emotions in the human make-up and a demonstration for us to be universally ashamed of. The lynching rate appears to have reached a static point in the nation. The five lynched this year is the same number as for 1940, but one above the four of 1941, two more than the three in 1939 and one less than the six in 1938.

If elation can be found in the fact only five lynchings occurred in the South this year by certain people, The Star is not stirred by it. Until lynchings are done away with altogether, there can be no rest in the campaign against mob violence.

The South may have an interracial problem, but certainly the solution does not lie in mob murder.

EDITORIALS

St. Matthews, S. C., Times
December 31, 1942

Five Persons Lynched In 1942

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Reserch, there were 5 persons lynched in 1942. This is 1 more than the number 4 for the year 1941, the same as the number 5 for the year 1940, 2 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, and 1 less than the number 6 for the year 1938. One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from the jail and hanged.

There were 15 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a western state and 14 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 13 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, a lynching was restrained by wives of the would-be lynchers. In another case, the sheriff dissuaded the mob. A total number of 17 persons—4 white men and 13 negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted criminal assault, 1; suspected attempted rape, 3; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Mississipi, 3; Missouri, 1; Texas, 1.

Lawrenceville, Ga., News-Herald
December 31, 1942

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE SENDS INFORMATION ON LYNCHING RECORD

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1942. I find, according to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were 5 persons lynched in 1942. This is 1 more than the number 4 for the year 1941, the same as the number 5 for the year 1940, 2 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, and 1 less than the number 6 for the year 1938. One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case the person was taken from the jail and hanged.

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All persons lynched were Negros. The offences charged were: Attempted criminal assault, 1; suspected attempted rape, 3; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishment on a murder charge, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Mississippi, 3; Missouri, 1; Texas, 1.

Very truly yours,
H. D. PATTERSON,
President

Ga., News-Banner
December 31, 1942

NO VISIT FROM "JUDGE LYNCH"

"Judge Lynch" paid Georgia no visits during 1942, according to a statement issued by Tuskegee Institute as of December 22.

Three states, however, were not so fortunate. Lynchings were recorded in Mississippi where three Negroes drew the death penalty from "Judge Lynch" without trial by jury, and one each in Texas and Missouri suffered a similar fate.

37n2

The five lynchings in 1942 were one more than the four in 1941, the same as the five in 1940, two more than the three in 1939 and one less than the six in 1938.

Although the number of lynchings is small, there is still evidence of a will to circumvent the courts in meting out justice. Were it not for the creditable alertness of law enforcement officers who prevented lynchings in 15 instances, the records might well have looked extremely forboding in 1942. This is especially true in the southern states where 14 of the 15 reported instances of such prevention took place.

Law enforcement officers in the south are to be commended for the manner in which they are defending the right of every suspect to a fair trial by an impartial jury. As citizens of a great commonwealth and nation, all of us will deserve equal commendation when the last semblance of ignorance and prejudice are forever removed from our minds and hearts and no longer a will to resort to mob violence exists anywhere in our thoughts.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C

Savagery At Home

JAN 2 1943

Every patriotic American who sees the Tuskegee Institute's annual report on lynchings will read it with a deep sense of shame. Certainly in the year when our soldiers were fighting and dying for the cause of civilization and decency in the world we should have scrupulously abolished every vestige of barbarism at home. But we did not. Tuskegee reports an increase in lynchings in 1942. Five Negroes were brutally murdered by maddened criminal gangs devoid of any sense of law, order or justice.

This report is sickening for a number of reasons. First, it shows an increase in the practice of human slaughter by mobs. In 1939 the number of lynchings dropped to three, and there was hope that this heinous practice was about to be abolished. Now that the toll is going up again, that optimistic

hope must be replaced and plans laid accordingly.

Secondly, some of the lynchings last year were of a particularly cruel character. Tuskegee reports that one person was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile and hanged from a cotton gin winch. The body of another victim was burned after being dragged through the streets. Such contemptible exhibitions in three States—Mississippi, Missouri and Texas—cannot be minimized because officers of the law acted with courage and vigor in many other States to prevent lynchings. They stand as a blotch on American civilization that no amount of explanation can remove.

Thirdly, Virginius Dabney reports in an article in the current *Atlantic Monthly* that the Mississippi lynchings occurred—three of them in a week—after it had been announced that the Rev. James Arthur Parsons, Negro pastor of four churches in Tupelo, Miss., would run as a candidate against the rabble-rousing Representative Rankin. If this guarded suggestion that the lynchings had a political motive is well founded, those crimes are put in a still more dastardly and outrageous light.

Finally, it is well known that racial tension has reached dangerous proportions in many communities since the war began. Fanatical Negro agitators and unprincipled white bigots have fanned the flames of racial enmity so furiously that Mr. Dabney fears that the country is sitting on a volcano. This agitation itself is bad enough while the country is fighting a total war on four continents. To have it accentuated by barbarous conduct on the part of white mobsters is infinitely worse. We have clung to the opinion that the States themselves must deal with these exhibitions of mass insanity. But it is becoming increasingly obvious that some means of curbing these outbursts must be found. The States might well be warned that the tensions of wartime will demand Federal action unless they can put their own houses in order.

Birmingham, Ala. News
December 31, 1942

STILL HAVE LYNCHING

Perhaps some gratification is found by Southerners in the fact that only five murders in the South this year were classified as lynchings in the annual Tuskegee Institute report. At least, Alabama can look the rest of the nation straight in the eye, since none of the lynchings occurred in this state.

Mississippi led the list again with three, while Missouri had one and Texas one.

In addition, 15 reports were checked by the Institute in which law officers were said to have prevented lynchings. One mob was thwarted in the west, the other 14 in the South.

While this report is definitely good, it is not good enough. Until lynchings are done away with in the South entirely, we cannot find satisfaction. Law officers are to be congratulated for their part in saving the lives of 17 persons, four white men and 13 Negroes. In most cases extra precautions had been taken to avoid lynching by removing prisoners to places of greater safety or augmented guards were thrown around jails in which they were held.

Great brutality was shown by mobs in two cases. One lynched Negro was dragged through public streets at the back of an automobile and his body was burned. Another body was dragged along public streets by a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged.

This is a display of the worst emotions in the human makeup and a demonstration for us to be universally ashamed of. The lynching rate appears to have reached a static point in the nation. The five lynched this year is the same number as for 1940, but one above the four of 1941, two more than the three in 1939 and one less than the six in 1938.

If elation can be found in the fact only five lynchings occurred in the South this year, by certain people, The Star is not stirred by it. Until lynchings are done away with altogether there can be no rest in the campaign against mob violence.

The South may have an interracial problem, but certainly the solution does not lie in mob murder.—Anniston Star.

Birmingham, Ala. News
December 31, 1942

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR 1942

To the Editor The News:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1942. I find, according to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were five persons lynched in 1942. This is one more than the number four for the year 1941, the same as the number five for the year 1940, two more than the number three for the year 1939, and one less than the number six for the year 1938. One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and the body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case the person was taken from the jail and hanged.

There were 15 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of the reported instances was in a Western state and 14 of the reported instances were in Southern states. In 13 instances persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case a lynching was restrained by wives of the would-be lynchers. In another case the sheriff dissuaded the mob. A total number of 17 persons—four white men and 13 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted criminal assault, one; suspected attempted rape, three; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon punishment on a murder charge, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Mississippi, three; Missouri, one; Texas, one.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President, Tuskegee Institute.

Dillon, S. C., Herald
January 7, 1943

An Impressive Record

THE annual report of Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, is brief but interesting. Five persons were lynched in 1942 but that was five too many. "Lynch law" strikes hard at the administration of justice and in a way reacts upon the persons who engage in the lynchings.

The court room is one of the strongest pillars of organized society, and when people take the law into their own hands and try to administer justice on the outside they weaken the foundations of the institution on which they themselves depend for the protection of their lives and property.

One paragraph of the report that attracts special attention is that there were 15 instances "in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. One of these was in a western state and 14 were in southern states." In one case a lynching was restrained by the wives of the would-be lynchers and in another case the sheriff persuaded the men to disband," making a total of 17 attempted lynchings which were prevented, 4 of the principals being white and 13 colored.

In view of the large colored population in the south this impressive record should receive the thoughtful consideration of persons in other sections who cling to the delusion that the colored people of the south have no civil rights.

As a matter of fact there is no "race problem" in the south. The white and colored people of the south know and understand one another, and the only trouble they have ever had was from 1866 to 1876 when unscrupulous and designing white men moved in from other sections and stirred up the trouble.

The south has never interferred with and has no desire to interfere with whatever problems may exist between the native-born and forign elements in other sections of the nation, and why other sections attempt to create racial problems in the south is something that passes understanding.

Lafayette, Ala., Sun
December 30, 1942

FIVE PERSONS LYNCHED DURING 1942

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records, and Research, there were 5 persons lynched in 1942, according to a recent release by F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute.

This is one more than the number, 4, for the year 1941, the same as the number 5 for the year 1940, two more than the number 3 for the year 1939, and one less than the number 6 for the year 1938.

One of the persons lynched was dragged through the streets behind an automobile and body burned. Another body was dragged through the streets behind a speeding automobile to the edge of town and hanged from a cotton gin winch. In one case, the person was taken from the jail and hanged.

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All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted criminal assault, 1; suspected attempted rape, 3; received life sentence when jury failed to agree upon the punishmnt on a murder charge, 1.

Birmingham, Ala. News
December 31, 1942

Five Lynched In 1942, Tuskegee Announces

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—(AP)—Five persons, all Negroes, were lynched during 1942, President F. D. Patterson, of Tuskegee Institute announced Thursday.

The reports compiled by the college's department of records and research revealed that three lynchings occurred in Mississippi, and one each in Texas and Missouri.

The annual report showed that four persons were lynched in 1941 and five in 1940. It added that in 15 instances this year officers of the law prevented lynchings.

In 13 other instances, the report continued, persons were removed or guards augmented to prevent lynchings.

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ALABAMA

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

Scenes In Death Of T. C. I. Employe

JAN 14 1942















Figures in the investigation of the slaying of Grover Cleveland Kuhn, T. C. I. mine official, missing since Jan. 3, whose body was discovered Tuesday afternoon in Ketona Lake, are shown above. The upper left picture was taken as the body of Kuhn was brought to the surface by grappling hooks. Howard King, Negro employe of Johns-Service (left), was holding the line which finally contacted the body. In the boat with him are Llewellen Johns (center) and Sheriff's Deputy J. Boggan. At the upper right Deputy "Pap" Dinken is standing at the point on the lake shore where Kuhn's papers, receipts and other identification traces were found earlier Tuesday. James Smitherman, 19, who officers said confessed to participation in the slaying, is shown in the lower left view, snapped as he entered the courthouse for a conference with Assistant Solicitor Willard McCall. The view at the lower right shows Alfred Schelaci, 18, who was being held as a material witness, in the sheriff's office. Behind him are, left to right, Deputies Boggan and Dinken and W. R. Sims, head of the T. C. I.'s Special Service Department. Pictured in the inset is the slain mine official.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

SEARCHERS FIND BODY OF VICTIM

JAN 14 1942

Lake Near Tarrant City Scene Of Discovery Of Missing Man

THREE ARRESTED IN KUHN INQUIRY

Two Birmingham Youths And Ft. McPherson Soldier Are Held

JAN 14 1942

BY HUGH W. SPARROW

The battered body of Grover Cleveland Kuhn, missing T. C. I. mine assistant foreman, was taken from Ketona Lake early Tuesday afternoon and shortly thereafter James Smitherman, 19, one of two youths who, officers said, admitted driving Kuhn back to Birmingham from the Bohemia Club on the night of his disappearance, confessed, the officers added, to the slaying and implicated another.

Smitherman charged that Bill Patterson, a recent army recruit, was his partner in the crime, and later it was announced Patterson was under arrest in Ft. McPherson, Ga.

Discovery of the body—in about 50 feet of water near the rock-bound shore of the one-time quarry near Tarrant City—ended a 10-day search for the missing official and apparently solved a mystery which authorities had studied for days.

The body was found after about 10 minutes' search with grappling hooks by officers and a crew from John-Service, about 20 feet from the shore where the rocks still showed crimson stains of blood which presumably dripped from several wounds on Kuhn's head.

Smitherman confessed to participating in the crime, Tuesday afternoon, about 30 minutes after officers notified him that the body had been found and that a companion being held as a material witness—Alfred Schelaci, 18—had quoted him as saying early last week that Kuhn's body was "in Ketona Lake," the officers said.

JAN 14 1942

Break-Down Reported

The prisoner previously had strongly denied knowledge of Kuhn's fate, though he admitted, as did Schelaci, officers said, that the two drove him back to Birmingham from the Bohemia Club early on the morning of Jan. 4. When notified the body had been found and advised that Schelaci had implicated him, according to Assistant Solicitor Willard McCall, Smitherman immediately broke down and confessed.

The prisoner, according to the assistant solicitor, said he and Patterson, reported to have enlisted in the army last Thursday, actually threw Kuhn into the lake, about 5 o'clock the morning of Jan. 4.

In the presence of officers after signing a statement of confession, Smitherman told an Age-Herald reporter late Tuesday afternoon that he "just couldn't think of why we did it."

JAN 14 1942

The prisoner blamed Patterson with being the instigator of the crime and charged that while he did not rob Kuhn himself, Patterson "shook him down." Smitherman said he did not know how much money was obtained, but Sheriff's Deputies J. L. Boggan and Pap Dinken—principal investigators in the case—said they had been told the robbery netted about $45.

Death Blamed On Blow

Smitherman also asserted that Kuhn was still alive, officers said, when he and the Patterson youth threw him into the lake, a statement which was contradicted by Coroner Gip Evans, who reported an autopsy showed Kuhn died of a blow at the base of the brain from a blunt instrument and was dead before being thrown into the lake.

The prisoner asserted further that after Kuhn was plunged into the water, 10 or more feet below the shore level, the victim attempted to swim and that he changed his mind and tried to rescue him, officials reported. By the time he climbed down the rocks to the water level, Smitherman asserted, Kuhn disappeared under the water, officers said.

Immediately after Smitherman reportedly signed the confession the solicitor's office announced he would be held on a murder charge and that Schelaci, who gave them the first clew that the body would be found in the lake, would be held as a material witness.

Kuhn, assistant night mine foreman at the T. C. I.'s Docena mine, disappeared after quitting work on the afternoon of Saturday, Jan. 3. On the following Wednesday officers found his blood-stained automobile and a quilt, blood-stained also, near Twenty-Seventh Street and Thirty-Second Avenue, North.

For several days last week, offi-

cers investigated the disappearance without success, but shortly after The Age-Herald last Saturday carried Kuhn's picture and a story of his disappearance the first big break in the case came.

A young woman who quit work as a cashier at the Bohemia Club several days ago read The Age-Herald's account while en route to her home in Falkville and phoned City Detectives Charley Pierce and J. R. Norrell that she recognized Kuhn as having been at the suburban night spot, now operated as a taxi dance hall, on the night of his disappearance.

Although the young woman said she didn't attach great significance to it at the time, she told the officers that on the night of Kuhn's disappearance she saw Kuhn at the club and later saw him being brought into the club from the outside bleeding from a head injury.

Club Manager Investigates

Robert Cummings, Bohemia Club manager, was investigating the occurrence when Smitherman, Schelaci and Patterson came over and offered to drive the injured man back to Birmingham, officers said she reported. Cummings, she added, turned Kuhn over to the trio after Patterson said he knew Kuhn, having formerly worked with the T. C. I. and insisted he would gladly take him home.

The city officers turned the information over to W. R. Sims, head of the T. C. I. special service department, who promptly notified Deputies Boggan and Dinken.

From that point on Deputies Boggan and Dinken rushed the investigation to a speedy conclusion Tuesday afternoon. From the Bohemia Club manager they obtained clews to the identity of Schelaci and Smitherman and arrested the two youths Sunday night.

At frequent intervals Monday the youths were questioned and it soon developed that Schelaci and Smitherman were giving contradictory accounts, the deputies revealed.

Schelaci declared, officers reported, that he and the two others consented to drive Kuhn to Birmingham and that he drove the car the entire route till he reached his own home, 1001 North 30th Street. Schelaci said Kuhn sat on the rear seat and shifted his position occasionally but did not complain of his head injury.

When he reached his home, Shelaci said, according to the officers, he turned the wheel over to Smitherman, who drove away with Kuhn and the other youth. Schelaci said he was met at the door by his brother-in-law and timed his arrival as 5 a.m.

Schelaci was quoted as saying that the next time he saw Smitherman was Monday morning and that when he asked what Smitherman "had done with that drunk" the latter replied "he's in Ketona Lake."

It was on the basis of that information that Deputies Boggan and Dinken searched the lake shore and found receipts, an identification card and other of Kuhn's belongings, a short distance from the blood stained rocks.

Smitherman Questioned

Smitherman, meanwhile, insisted that he did not know what happened to Kuhn, the officers said. Smitherman said he had accompanied Kuhn, Schelaci and the third youth back to Birmingham and that he and the other youth got out of the car in front of his house at 3114 24th Avenue, North. Smitherman, who timed his arrival home as 3 a.m., said Kuhn then was able to drive the car himself and that the last he saw of the mine official was when he drove away on 32nd Avenue, the officers said.

Deputies Boggan and Dinken found the receipts and other Kuhn belongings Tuesday morning and returned at 2 p.m. with a boat and grappling hooks from Johns-Service. It was only about 10 minutes afteh the dragging process started that Howard King, a Negro boat attendant who held a grappling hook line cried out "I got him." A few seconds later Kuhn's body was brought to the surface.

Coroner Evans, who said that Kuhn met death as a result of a blow at the base of the brain from a blunt instrument, declared Kuhn apparently was dead some time before his body was tossed into the lake. That fact, he said, gave rise to the possibility that the slayers may have driven around some time after Kuhn died before deciding what to do with the body.

Kuhn had an overcoat when last seen, but it was not on the body when found. He was otherwise fully clother but his pockets were empty, the coroner reported.

Deputies Boggan and Dinken Tuesday, among other things, were able to identify the blood-stained quilt found in the car as having belonged to Smitherman's step-father, they said.

Car Used Once

The deputies reported that the Kuhn car had been parked near 27th Street and 32nd Avenue, North, during Sunday but that the three met Monday morning and went on a "lark" to Winfield and Guin, in Marion County. They spent Monday afternoon and night in that area where they attended a basket ball fete, met some high schoolgirls and all three had "dates."

The following morning they returned to Birmingham, officers said, and parked the car back where it had been parked Sunday and where it was finally discovered by officers the following Wednesday.

Schelaci said he is employed as a grocery clerk. Smitherman declared he has not had a job "in some time" and that the last time he was employed he worked for a transfer company.

Deputy Boggan announced Tuesday night he would swear out murder warrants against Smitherman and Patterson and that he would leave early Wednesday morning for Ft. McPherson to return Patterson to Birmingham.

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370-1942
Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Officials Threaten To Lynch Unionists

AUG 12 1942

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (FP)—Officials of Walnut Ridge, 100 miles northeast of here, were restrained by a temporary federal court order from threatening to lynch AFL organizers who are organizing workers at a flying school under construction.

The order was issued after three AFL representatives from Memphis testified that Town Marshal Buchanan of Walnut Ridge had ordered them out of town and had threatened them with hanging. The three were Lev G. Loring, United Association of Journeymen Plumbers and Steamfitters; Vernon Deal, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners; and H. Abernathy, Construction and General Laborers Union.

AUG 12 1942

The union officials, who had recently organized a similar project at Blytheville, went to Walnut Ridge and set up an office, then called on city officials. Buchanan proceeded to curse, abuse and threaten them and ordered them out of the city. An appeal for protection to the county clerk brought the retort that he "did not propose to have racketeers around."

Buchanan visited the union office, was ejected after an altercation, and promised to return with enough men to drive the union officials out of town.

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

Mob Lynches Phila. Soldier In Flagstaff

Refusal of Restaurant To Serve Negroes Starts Fatal Row; Sheriff Free

(Special to Star-News)

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Despite objections from some of this little city's leading white citizens, a mob of approximately 400 surrounded a group of colored soldiers in a restaurant here last Saturday and shot one of them to death before "cooler heads" could intervene.

The mob victim was 25-year-old Pvt. Jesse Smith, formerly of Philadelphia.

A few hours afterward, a coroner's jury ruled that Pvt. Smith was killed by a State Motor Vehicle Inspector who "acted in the pursuit of duty." The inspector was identified as Merril Schremp.

It was the first time, officials said, that a colored man has been lynched in Arizona. Since 1882 twenty-nine persons (all white) have been lynched. It was also pointed out that only a few colored citizens live here. The total population amounts to 8,000.

Arrive on Leave

Pvt. Smith and eleven of his pals from a nearby Army camp arrived in Flagstaff last Friday night on a 24-hour leave, police said, and during that time got into an argument with a restaurant owner who allegedly told them: "Uniform or no uniform we're not going to serve any n——rs in here."

After telling the restaurateur they intended to break up Jim Crowism throughout the country before leaving for battlefields abroad, the soldiers returned to their camp.

Meanwhile, Sheriff Perry Francis called a group of whites together, appointed many of them as special deputies and warned hundreds of others (via grapevine rumors) that "we've got to work together and stop these n——rs from trying to drink and eat in our restaurants."

One colored soldier, still on leave in Flagstaff, heard about it. He left town immediately, returned to his camp and informed other soldiers that the cops were organizing a mob for the purpose of "rushing the camp and running those n——rs back to New York."

Warned on Lynching

These incidents and reports were told to the Star-News by soldiers and a few neutral whites who warned the sheriff against "anything like a lynching," they said.

After the disturbance and other complaints, particularly the refusal of eating places to serve colored soldiers, had been discussed at camp the soldiers armed themselves with machine guns and revolvers and came back to Flagstaff.

On their arrival, they met a group of whites who booed them and told them to "read and run." Immediately, then, police said, the soldiers pulled their guns and started shooting in the air.

Rumors that the soldiers were "shooting up the town" spread like wild fire. The soldiers marched through the business district and on to the Grand Canyon Cafe, where they went inside.

Ordered to Give Up Guns

Half an hour later, the mob of whites surrounded the establishment and ordered the soldiers to give up their guns and surrender. One of them obeyed the order.

But Private Smith walked to the entrance of the place armed with a machine gun, authorities said, and pointed it at the mob. Before he could fire, however, several shots rang out and he fell dead.

Six others formed a circle, pointing guns in every direction, and walked through the line formed by the mob. And while five others were surrendering they escaped and got back to camp.

Major H. C. Nichols, their commanding officer, announced that all of them were A. W. O. L., armed and had been drinking. The five under arrest were not allowed to give their version of the lynching, pending an investigation by Army authorities.

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — "There's a lot about that soldier's death that will never be known."

This statement came from the lips of one man — a leading citizen in this war-plant boom town 7,000 feet above sea level in the mountainous regions of northern Arizona.

His opinion is but one of many being voiced here among both white and colored residents concerning the fatal shooting of Jesse Smith, 25-year-old army recruit from Philadelphia, who was slain at about 3:30 a.m. Sunday, July 12, by a member of a posse which had surrounded

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Police Chief, Up for Re-election, Fears Effects of Slaying

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Election time is near here and there is at least one person on the city payroll who is concerned about how the slaying of Jesse Smith will affect his chances for re-election.

He is Chief of Police James B. Wright.

Chief Wright bent over backward to make everything just so-so for reporters investigating the slaying here. He arranged overnight accommodations, sent around "representative colored citizens" and made a conscious and almost comical effort to make it appear that "the colored people here ain't mad."

A large number of colored residents here are voters.

Link Old Grudge Against 368th with Killing of Soldier

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Did local police get off an old grudge in the slaying of Jesse Smith?

When the 368th Infantry was stationed here last winter with its own M.P.'s, it is known that several officers, including Officer Swede Johnson, were told in no uncertain terms by massive colored M.P.'s to "keep their hands off colored soldiers."

The officers did, and the 368th never had any trouble here.

Some local citizens think local officers took advantage of last Sunday night's incidents to vent their spleen against colored men in khaki.

Facts Withheld in Slaying of Soldier

because of his attentions to a white waitress employed at the Grand Canyon Cafe, whom he is said to have tipped 50c in purchasing a cup of coffee.

The other is that Smith and several companions were surprised in the rear of the cafe in company with white women and Smith was the only soldier unfortunate enough to stop one of the fusillade of bullets showered at the men as they fled.

Killer's Identity Questioned

Partially supporting the former rumor are statements attributed to Miss Inez Lucero, Mexican friend of the white waitress. Miss Lucero is reported to have said that the white girl told her Smith was slain by Officer Swede Johnson instead of by Special Officer Merrill Schremp, as official reports state.

The Mexican girl also told colored friends that the white girl began crying after the fatal shot was fired and that an officer said to her:

"There's no use crying. That won't bring the 'n——' back. You'll testify for me, won't you?"

The girl is reported to have refused. She is now reported to have been spirited out of town "until this thing blows over."

Bullet Hole Revealing

Provoking conjecture in support of the latter rumor are the following facts:

Smith's body was found in the rear of a market adjoining the cafe.

A window in the rear of this market shows two small holes such as might be made by gun shots.

The screen door in the front of the cafe where Smith was reported slain still bears a hole about ½ inch in diameter — startlingly large for a bullet hole.

This hole is about abdomen-high to a 6-foot man. Smith was reportedly shot high in the right chest, with the bullet emerging near the right shoulder.

No colored civilians viewed Smith's body. However, several soldiers were granted the privilege and reported the wound just as reported by officials.

Police, Army Agree

Police officials, both city and county, and camp officials relate incidents leading up to and concerning the shooting in almost identical words.

Reporters, though not forbidden, were discouraged from talking to members of the unit to which Smith was attached, except in the case of Sergt. Ganious, who accompanied the body to Philadelphia.

Sergt. Ganious told the same story as that told by Sheriff Perry Francis, Chief of Police James B. Wright, Col. C. A. Hennessy, battalion commander, and Col. Feesen, who is in charge of the Camp Elden detail.

local cafe in fiction like wild west fashion.

Tipped White Waitress

Colored residents, those forward enough to say anything at all, give credence to at least two of the many rumors circulating.

One is that Smith was slain

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370-1942

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Unknown Man Mob Victim

NOV 14 1942

PERRY, Fla., Nov. 12—An unidentified Negro was killed here last Thursday night by a white mob and his body later taken to the Negro undertaker of this city, who was demanded to bury the dead man, and handed a $10 bill in payment for the burial.

NOV 14 1942

This report was made to a Courier reporter from the most reliable residents of this community, known for many years as the most anti-Negro in the state.

An interested committee has notified Governor Holland of the killing, asking that an investigation be made into this brutal murder of the N-gro man whose identity is still a secret.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Defender Scribe Witnesses Murder That Adds New Name To Lynch Roll

November 21, 1942

By CAROL J. FLYNN

PERRY COUNTY, Fla.—The brutal murder last week, of an unidentified farm hand from Georgia shows the fervor with which whites of Perry County, Fla., cooperate with "furriners" from other states in "keeping" Negroes in their so-called place.

On the morning of November 9, a white Georgia farmer brought his handy man to Perry with him to help sell a load of potatoes. An argument took place between them and the white man rushed to his truck to get a weapon with which to attack the Negro. The farmer was grabbed by the colored sharecropper who held him in order to prevent him reaching the truck. The enraged white started calling for help.

He didn't have to wait long for a Bob Evans, the town's taxi driver, saw his plight and immediately came to his assistance by striking the Negro a deathblow with his car crank from behind.

Perry's Bob Evans and the Georgia farmer then took their victim to the woods. Upon returning, witnesses saw that they had shot his head off presumably with a shotgun. He was taken to a colored funeral director who was given $20 to bury the body. Relatives and friends back in Georgia were not notified of the death.

These men had committed murder. Were they arrested? Don't be foolish. "Mr." Bob Evans had only done "what any other self respecting white citizen of Perry would have done. A black man had dared to put his hands on a white man, even in self defense. He was doomed, he must die."

Thus closes another incident in the history of the "glorious" southland. It is insignificant to many, but a stark, heartrending tragedy to the poor southern blacks who realize under what conditions they must live.

370-1942
The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

6997

Hitler's Day in Martin Dies' State

By Ben Davis, Jr.

Once more, America has been disgraced, the Negro people attacked and our war effort delivered a heavy blow, by a foul and hideous lynching.



Ben Davis, Jr.

In Texarkana, Texas, Willie Vinson, 25-year-old Negro worker was done to death by a fascist lynch mob who seized his ailing body from a hospital and hanged him.

Vinson was offered as a sacrifice to that cannibal poll tax system which Southern bourbons like Gov. Talmadge of Georgia calls "white supremacy." The charge—"attempt to rape"—is by now commonly known as the last refuge of the chivalrous poll-taxers who oppress Negro and poor white in eight Southern states.

This is the third lynching in our country in 12 days.

Two took place in two days—an average of which Hitler could be proud.

And two took place in poll tax states.

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First, Odell Waller was legally lynched in Richmond, Virginia on July 2 for defending himself against a lawless landlord. Not only were Negroes denied the right to sit on the jury, but no poor white who could not pay the poll tax could sit either. So the constitutional rights of the poor white citizens were burned in the chair with Waller.

Secondly, Private Jesse Smith, a Negro soldier in Flagstaff, Arizona, was deliberately murdered last Saturday by police officials who then tried to hide their crime behind civilian slanders against Negro soldiers in general. Capt. R. M. Stanford, of the Arizona Army post, branded as a lie the charge that Negro soldiers shot up the town and declared that the officials who gave out such a charge "must be crazy."

Whatever shooting occurred in Flagstaff, was done by the police officials themselves who killed Smith and wounded two other Negro soldiers. It is the familiar cry of the guilty who yells "Stop Thief" while he gathers in the loot. All the facts are not clear in the Flagstaff case, but it appears that these Negro citizens, dressed in the uniform of their country and offering their lives in our patriotic war, were victims of a jim-crow practice which denied them the right to enter a public place in Flagstaff.

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How long will these fascist atrocities against the Negro people be tolerated? How long will the Fifth Columnists and Ku Kluxers be permitted to strain the bonds of national unity by crucifying patriotic Negro Americans? The anti-Negro, anti-Semitic gangs are doing the work of Hitler: Hitler murders our citizens and our allies abroad, and Hitler-minded Fifth Columnists lynch and persecute our citizens at home.

All of the conditions for stern and relentless prosecution of the lynchers exist in the Texarkana case. Vinson had not been indicted, not even a charge against him. The woman who made the claim of a "rape attempt" upon her, never identified Vinson and did not even pretend to do so. She said merely Vinson "looked like the man." (To the Negro-hating sheriffs, this means ANY Negro.)

The mob, looking for a man who "looked like the man," entered a Negro cafe in the town and there shot a Negro who allegedly picked up a butcher knife.

Vinson, the man shot, was taken to a hospital where a mob later seized him, and hanged him to a winch on a cotton gin, with no apparent interference from the sheriff, a state official. None of the mob was masked, according to the nurses in the hospital, yet no one was able to identify a single one of the lynchers.

The sheriff claims he investigated the case but "made no arrests and had no clues." (An Associated Press story yesterday.) There's no telling what happened to the other hospital patients and undoubtedly the whole Negro community has been subjected to Ku Klux intimidation and terror.

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It is up to the Federal government to act in this situation and act now! It should start with the sheriff, who plainly needs to take no back seat in the art of whitewashing. It is the duty of the Department of Justice, even without passage of the much-needed anti-lynching bill, to insure Negro citizens in their rights under the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments.

Attorney General Biddle, instead of hounding such outstanding labor leaders and fighters for Negro rights as Harry Bridges, needs to get after the Ku Klux Klan, and the other Hitlerite bands. The Ku Klux Klan is cultivating the atmosphere which leads to these horrors against the Negro people; it should be disbanded.

Lynchers are aiding the enemy. They should be executed as traitors to the nation. Lynchers must go along with Hitler.

Martin Dies, the poll taxer from Texas, who hounds anti-fascists and disrupts national unity, serves as a shield for the lynchers from his own state. Dies should be driven from public life.

The national government should take immediate initiative in guaranteeing the full citizenship of the Negro people, as a war necessity. Those anti-jim-crow steps which have already been carried through by the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee, should be extended in record time.

Every employer who still discriminates against workers because of race or religion, at a time when production needs every available man, should be sternly dealt with by the government. The failure to do so only feeds the atmosphere of discrimination out of which lynchings and anti-Semitism sprout. A far-reaching policy of equal rights for Negro citizens in civilian and Army life should be instituted by the government at once. The Pepper anti-poll tax bill should be passed before Congress adjourns, as a dramatic starter, and to serve notice on Hitlerites within.

The whole American people—especially labor—should be aroused over these lynchings. Not only are the rights of the Negroes involved—victory over Hitler is at stake. Urge President Roosevelt to speak out clearly and to act firmly and speedily against the lynch enemies of the nation.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

Says South's Mob Evil Sabotaging War Effort

NOV 7 - 1942

NEW ORLEANS, La., Nov. 5—Accusing the South of "sabotaging the war effort and assailing the Four Freedoms for which the United Nations are fighting," Charles Morris, leading Louisiana labor figure, listed 18 flagrant atrocities smacking of Hitlerism, perpetuated in Dixie.

NOV 7 - 1942

Morris' attack on southern mis-deeds followed trenchant letters to

Little Rock, Ark.; April 30, nine soldiers denied food, Montgomery, Ala.; April 30, Jack Bloodworth slain by MP, Birmingham, Ala.; July 14, Willie Vinson lynched, Texarkana, Texas; July 16, Alfred Knox, soldier, beaten, Houston, Texas; July 20, Walter Alexander beaten, Reserve, La.; July 23, Roland Hayes beaten, jailed, Rome, Ga.; August 6, Herman Lee, mother beaten, New Orleans, La.; August 15, Charles Reco, beaten, shot, Beaumont, Texas; August 20, Edgar Fordham beaten, Gulfport, Miss.; August 21, attempted lynching, Rev. J. B. Ross, Sikeston, Mo.; August 25, Albert Carrish, soldier, beaten, jailed, Spartanburg, S. C., and nocturnal 'reigns of terror' at Fort Bragg, N. C., and Alexandria, La., totalling 18 mob episodes.

6998

370-1942
Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

REPORT HITS LYNCH EVIL, INDECENCY TO SOLDIERS

NEW YORK, Dec. 10—In a report to the executive board of the Lawyers' Guild, just released, William H. Hastie, civilian aide to Secretary of War Stimson, and Thurgood Marshall, special NAACP counsel, roundly condemned the U. S. Department of Justice.

The manner in which special U. S. attorneys, appointed by the Department of Justice, have presented evidence in lynching cases was deplored.

MOBS ESCAPE PENALTY

"In the States with the worst lynching records," the complaint report read, "criminal prosecutions of members of the mob never go farther than a perfunctory investigation by either a coroner's jury or by a grand jury, ending with the decision that a person lynched 'came to his death at the hands of parties unknown'."

The report gave detailed treatment of violence against Negroes in uniform by civilian and State officials and advanced the opinion that "an attack on a Negro soldier or sailor in uniform is a direct attack on our Government. Unless the Federal Government is willing to protect its soldiers and sailors on leave as well as while on duty, it is impossible to maintain the proper morale among colored soldiers and sailors and their families, and the authority of government itself is seriously undermined. It is impossible to develop combat efficiency in Negro soldiers and sailors while denying them basic civil rights during the period of their training."

370-1942

GEORGIA

6999

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

White Club Workers Convicted In Fatal Burning Of Negro Man

Terms of 1-2 Yrs. Meted Defendants; New Trials Sought

JAN 31 1942

GAINESVILLE, Ga. (SNS) — A Hall County superior court jury had convicted two white men Friday of voluntary manslaughter in the fatal burning of a colored man, John Wesley (Buster) Cox.

After deliberating nearly three hours, the jury fixed the sentences of O. B. Shaw and Charlie Ellis at one to two years in the penitentiary.

The bill of indictment returned against the two men charged them with saturating the victim with oil of mustard and turpentine and igniting his clothes.

PLAY ACT CONTENDED

JAN 31 1942

The defense contented that Cox was under the influence of whiskey and the defendants were having fun with him when they soaked his clothes with oil of mustard and then set them on fire.

The convicted men are expected to file motion for a new trial

Ellis is of White county, and Shaw an employe of the Yatch club. Cox was also a worker at the club, according to Sheriff A. W. Bell.

SOUGHT TO EASE BURNS

The white men, according to the indictment, applied the oil of mustard to the man's body at the club on the afternoon of January 5 and sought to ease his burns with the turpentine.

JAN 31 1942

When Cox's condition became alarming, he was rushed to the Hall County Memorial hospital where he was quoted by the Sheriff as say a stove exploded and set him on fire. Cox died at home on January 9, four days after the incident.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Jury Indicts 3 White Men At Gainesville

JAN 2 31942

Murder Charge Laid to Two in Death of Negro.

370

Special to THE CONSTITUTION.

GAINESVILLE, Ga., Jan. 22.—Indictment of two white men on charges of murder as the result of a Negro's death from burns, and indictment of another white man for murder for the pistol slaying of a neighboring garage operator, are high points of the grand jury's activities thus far during the January term of Hall superior court which convened Monday under Judge T. S. Candler.

JAN 2 31942

Charlie Ellis of White county, and O. B. Shaw, of Gainesville, and an employe at the Yacht Club, night spot near here on the Chattahoochee river, are the two white men alleged to have caused the death of Buss Cox, local Negro, who worked at the club, Sheriff A. W. Bell reports.

The men are said to have applied some oil of mustard to the Negro's body at the club on Monday afternoon, January 5, as a joke, and when it began burning him to have applied turpentine for relief, the sheriff said.

When the Negro's condition became alarming, he was said to have been taken to Hall county Memorial hospital where the sheriff said he reported that a stove exploded to cause his burns. He died at home on Friday, January 9, four days after the incident.

The other murder indictment involves Lonnie Gravitt, a proprietor of Gravitt & Collier, a general store here, who is alleged to have shot and killed Henry Burnett, who operated a nearby garage, when the latter on January 7 entered Gravitt's store and discussed the sale of an automobile, Sheriff Bell said. An argument ensued, the sheriff said, and Gravitt fired twice at Burnett, one shot taking effect and killing him almost instantly. Trial of Gravitt is scheduled to begin next Wednesday, while Shaw and Ellis expected to be tried on next Thursday, it was stated. JAN 2 31942

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

White Mobsters Spread Terror In Search For Soldier

370

AUG 8 1942

MACON, Ga., Aug. 27.—An anger-crazed mob of would-be lynchers, bent on tracking down an unidentified Negro soldier who allegedly killed a city patrolman and wounded a military police sergeant, has thrown the Negro community of this city into the tortures of a reign of terror.

Fearful of open race riots, the entire police force was placed on vigilant guard duty and 100 military police from near-by Camp Wheeler assigned to assist them.

Dead as a result of the reported murder, was J. G. Davors of the Macon police force, while Sergt. Martin Whitemire was wounded. The shots which caused the fatality and wounding came from Whitemire's gun, but officials say the unidentified Negro had jerked the gun from the officer's holster and fired.

AUG 29 1942

AUG 8 1942

37o-1942
Kansas City. Call
Kansas City, Mo.

KANSAS

7000

White Man Almost Causes Race Riot When He Yells 'Lynch Him' as Negro Youth Slugs Another White Person

NOV 6 - 1942

KANSAS CITY, Kan.—(Special)—It was only the coolness of Wesley O'Bannon, an auxiliary policeman, that averted a race brawl Thursday morning when Harold Brenner, an employe of Sam's Loan office, 5th St., and Minnesota Ave., yelled "Lynch him! put a rope around his neck" in referring to a Negro youth who had slugged a white man.

The trouble started when Jack Elliott Jenkins, 1914 Springfield, got into an argument with an operator on the 33rd and Parallel street car over a transfer.

Police reports state that after Jenkins was asked to get off the car for refusal to pay a cash fare Clarence Swann, 60, white, who lives in Kansas City, Mo., told Jenkins to go on home.

Jenkins struck Swann and broke his nose. It was at this point that Brenner, standing outside of Sam's and seeing the blood streaming from the white man's nose, shouted out:

"Lynch him, lynch him! Put a rope around his neck."

Sam Gorlick, proprietor of Sam's which has about 80 per cent Negro patronage, told The Call that he immediately discharged Brenner when he found out that his employe had been mixed up in the case.

NOV 6 - 1942

Brenner has been employed at Sam's for about four years.

About an hour after the fracas Brenner called the Kansas side Call office saying that he must have been crazy, that he would do anything possible to apologize for his rash statement. He said the sight of the blood excited him to such a pitch that he didn't know what he was saying.

Gorlick expressed indignation over the actions of his former employe stating that he had always tried to practice fairness to all people.

NOV 6 - 1942

Several Negroes gathered at the scene of the incident as did whites. O'Bannon urged them all to let the law take its course which advice was evidently heeded.

At police headquarters it was discovered that Jenkins had a rather lengthy police record.

He was booked on charges of drunkenness, peace disturbance and assault.

When an effort was made to talk with Jenkins by The Call Police Captain Eli Dahlin said that the young man would have to be sobered up before anyone could talk with him.

NOV 6 - 1942

O'Bannon said he was going to file a charge of inciting to riot against Brenner whose address was given as the Commonwealth hotel by his former employer, Sam Gorlick.

370-1942
New York Times
New York, N. Y.

KENTUCKY

7001

Kentuckian Fatally Shot at Trial for Murder; Jury Orders Death Penalty as He Is Dying

MAY 22 1942

By The Associated Press.

HARLAN, Ky., May 21—Manzo Shepherd, 24, was shot to death in the Harlan Circuit Court room where he was being tried for slaying a taxicab driver today, and the jury convicted him and recommended the death penalty during the few minutes which elapsed between the time he was shot and the time he was pronounced dead.

Sheriff Clint Ball said Jack Heaton, 26, a coal miner from Louellen and a nephew of the man Shepherd was charged with killing, surrendered to officers immediately after the shooting and was placed in jail.

Shepherd was seated at the defense table with the big crowd which packed the circuit court room jammed behind him. The Commonwealth Attorney, Daniel Boone Smith, had just completed closing arguments and asked the jury of men from adjoining Bell County to sentence Shepherd to the electric chair.

MAY 22 1942

As Mr. Smith walked back to the prosecution table and Judge James S. Forester started to address the jury, the shot rang out.

Amid screams from women and children in the crowd court attaches rushed to Shepherd's side. They carried him from the courtroom and he was pronounced dead at a hospital.

After the court room had been quieted, Judge Forester told the jury that Shepherd was alive when taken from the room and ordered them to take the case under consideration.

The jury returned in a few minutes with a conviction verdict and recommended the death penalty.

Sheriff Ball said that Heaton, whose uncle, Joe Christian, was found with his throat cut on Black Mountain May 5, walked up behind Shephard and shot him once in the head with an "owl-head" pistol. Sheriff Ball said that Heaton then turned and handed the pistol to officers.

MAY 23 1942

Shepherd, Herman Clouse, 23, and Howard Hensley, 30, of Yancey, were indicted for the killing of Christian.

Clouse and Shepherd had been tried jointly Tuesday but the trial ended in a deadlocked jury. Hensley previously had been granted a separate trial. At the opening of the second trial today Judge Forester granted Shepherd and Clouse separate trials.

After the shooting of Shepherd, Judge Forester dismissed the jury which had been selected to try Clouse and postponed the trials of both Hensley and Clouse until the October term of court.

370-1942

LOUISIANA

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

7002

Report Shows Man Was Lynched In Louisiana Jail

JAN 31 1942

JAN 31 1942

NEW ORLEANS, La. — A report prepared by the New Orleans Press club to be forwarded to the national office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People this week will prove that the death of Wilson Morin who died in a Shreveport jail last October was an official lynching and should have been accredited against the state of Louisiana as such, officials of the organizations stated this week.

Letters were sent to the district attorney of Caddo parish of which Shreveport is the seat, criticizing him for negligence in his reluctance to properly investigate the case.

When Morin was reported to have died from an edemna of the brain representatives of the Press club went to Shreveport and thoroughly investigated the case and found that he was deliberately beaten to death by city police and placed in the county jail to die, and that bruised marks on his body were concrete evidences, as seen by his relatives, persons in jail at the time of his incarceration and the priest who conducted funeral rites at Cane River, that his death was the result of beatings on the part of Shreveport police.

JAN 31 1942

Included in the report and letter also were statements that Morin was taken about the city of Shreveport and beaten in various beer parlors and taverns until he would slump to the floor. District Attorney Galloway of Shreveport, and the attorney general of the state were sent these facts together with the names and addresses of witnesses, and until today no report has been made of an investigation. The Press club closed its letter to the state's attorney with the following paragraph:

JAN 31 1942

"Please be advised that it is as embarrassing to us as to you to have Louisiana listed among the states of this nation that haven't as yet eradicated barbarianism, but, regretfully, there is no other alternative if our state officials are thus endowed."

7003

370-1942
Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Mississippi Chalks Up 4th Lynching

NOV 14 1942

"Just yesterday they hanged a soldier only three miles from the camp for no reason at all."

Written in a letter from his son, Theodore, the nation's youngest master sergeant, this revelation of a hitherto unreported lynching was brought to *PV* by Alphonso Utendahl, 934 Longwood ave, Bronx, this week. The letter, dated October 21, is from Camp Shelby, Miss. where Theodore is stationed.

Utendahl himself 369th regiment veteran of World War I, revealed that his son won his stripes in the same regiment in this war, declared "I am going to leave this whole matter in the hands of the *Voice*."

NOV 14 1942

PV is sending a copy of the letter to the War Department with a request for an investigation, not only of the reported lynching but of other conditions mentioned in the letter which ran in part:

". . . I am scared to leave camp because they don't like me anyhow because of my stripes. They say a 'nigger' is not supposed to be so 'high' in this part of the country."

Besides Theodore, two other Utendahl sons have entered the service. Malvin, at Camp Belvoir, Va., recently was released from military to civilian status to work in the laboratory, attends evening session at Howard University. Christian is at Camp Upton.

37o-1942

MISSOURI

7004

LOSING EYESIGHT AFTER BEATING BY IRATE WHITES

FEB 28 1942 FEB 28 1942

Courier Courier

Pittsburg

370

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 26—With doctors battling to save the sight of his left eye now that his right eye is apparently beyond scientific aid, David McGinnis, 36-year-old Southeastern Missouri sharecropper, is now in bed at the Homer G. Phillips hospital, the victim of Missouri "Bootheel" injustice.

McGinnis, who lives on the plantation of Paul Carruthers between Lilburn and Catron, Mo., near New Madrid, and just 20 miles from the scene of the Sikeston lynch-burning of Cleo Wright, has a tale to tell that is one which is attracting the attention of the NAACP and others interested in fair play.

The incapacitated man, who is the father of two children was brought here by his wife, Mrs. Ora Lee McGinnis, last week.

INJURED IN FIGHT

FEB 28 194

David, it was learned, was advised to enter a plea of guilty when he was called before the judge in New Madrid, Mo., on Wednesday, February 11, to face charges made after he had endeavored to defend himself against a white man who had resented some remarks, he made. Bond had been refused him as he lay, helplessly wounded, in jail.

According to the story of the events near New Madrid on February fourth it was about three o'clock in the afternoon, as McGinnis neared his home in the Carruthers plantation quarter after a visit to town with a fellow sharecropper, T. B. by name, a white carpenter, Ray Rooten, who was building a house a short distance from McGinnis' home, approached him, armed with two hammers, and accused him of cursing at him. This McGinnis denied, and, when the white man pressed him, went into his house and got a black jack. During the fight that ensued, McGinnis was struck on the chest with the hammers his foe carried while the latter received a few black jack blows over the head.

The scrap over, Carpenter Roy went home and so, McGinnis states he too went home, for he believed everything was over.

STRUCK BY BUCKSHOTS

FEB 28 194

Shortly afterwards, however, there came a knock at his door and a call. When he went outside, a white foreman known as Walter White, a "rider" from the Wilson Farms in Arkansas, was outside, armed with a shotgun. One blast from the double-barrelled gun greeted him. Then a shot was fired through the window. The upper part of McGinnis' body was struck by the leaden pellets, several lodging in both eyelids.

There would have been more trouble, it was stated but the "big boss" Paul Carruthers, for whom the wounded man has worked previously for more than a year and who was reportedly quite well pleased with his work and who treated him nicely, came up. Immediately he ordered McGinnis be taken to the hospital and cared for.

FEB 28 1942

Foreman White and another man with him, McGinnis asserts, took him to the New Madrid jail, instead, where he was locked up and denied medical attention.

37o-1942

NEW MEXICO

7005

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Farmer Slain By Posse Guns; Two Wounded

MAR 2 - 1942

Killing of Middle-Aged Man Is Climax to Siege.

PORTALES, N. Mex., March 1. (AP)—A middle-aged farmer was killed in his barricaded house today by the flaming guns of a posse after wounding two officers in a midnight-to-dawn siege.

Sheriff J. N. McCall and Deputy Sheriff Tom Cardin were wounded by the farmer, identified as Joel Bailey Foster, about 50.

MAR 2 - 1942

Officers were called to Elida, N. Mex., about midnight on reports that Foster had run amok and driven his family out of their home.

MAR 2 - 1942

Deputy Sheriff Jack Gentry said that McCall went up on the porch and pleaded with Foster to come out peacefully. Foster opened fire, hitting the sheriff with the first of three shots. Cardin was hit a moment later.

The sheriff's party retired after replying with their own guns.

Reinforced three hours later by state police and other officers, they laid siege to the house with tear gas through the remaining hours of darkness.

At daybreak officers approached and found Foster's body sprawled on the floor. He had been hit eight times.

370-1942
The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

7006

Lynchers Are Traitors!

MAY 8 -

By Ben Davis, Jr.

The lynching of Will Dawkins, 50-year-old carpenter in Hamlet, N. C., was a crime against the Negro people and against National Unity. Dawkins' murderers should be brought to justice and given the limit of the law. The facts in the case are not altogether clear—Dawkins was charged with the killing of the chief of police and members of his own family. Anyone whose guilt is duly established should be punished. But Dawkins was not given a trial nor was he indicted, nor was the law permitted in any way to take its course. Instead he was hounded and tracked down as if he were a human being with no rights whatsoever. It is reported that at least 60 shots were fired into his body. Such brutality compares with the fascist practices of the arch-enemy of our country—Hitler.

MAY 8 - 1942

Whatever the details of the case, it is clear that it grows out of the system of discrimination and lynching and oppression and the denial of equality which is practiced upon the Negro people and which is being intensified by Fifth Columnists and defeatists. But the Ku Klux enemies of the war effort clearly prefer to persecute the Negro people than to have our nation lick Hitler and Hitlerism. The discrimination against the Negroes in civilian life and in the armed forces all over our country is a set-up for Fifth Columnists in provoking disorder and discord in our nation's gravest hour.

Lynching has always been a crime, but today it is treason. It should be treated as such and those who are guilty of it should be dealt with as enemies of National Unity and of our entire effort to lick Hitler this year. It is a defiance of the spirit of President Roosevelt's executive orders and of the spirit of the country.

This is also more than a matter for the state authorities. The Department of Justice in Washington has a duty to see that the Constitutional rights of the Negro people are upheld, and that those in state offices who connive and conspire in any way to condone lynching or to deny the Negro people of their just rights are punished. A thorough investigation should be made into this lynching with a view to getting at the root of the facts and with the view to assuring the Negro people their Constitutional rights in and out of court. That the lynchers of Dawkins be brought to justice, is in the interest not only of the Negro people, but of all Americans who want the strongest bonds of Negro and white solidarity in order to destroy Hitler

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

FUGITIVE WHO SLEW FOUR OF OWN FAMILY AND CHIEF OF POLICE CAUGHT HIDING IN WOODS

MAY 16 1942

Army Airplanes Join in Search as Slayer Attempts To Escape Through Woods

BODY RIDDLED WITH BULLETS

MAY 16 1942

HAMLET, N. C.—(ANP)—Every member of a posse of 100 fired his gun into the body of Will Dawkins, 50, when he was cornered in a woods Wednesday following a one-day search in which army airplanes took part. He had been sought for the slaying of his 18-year-old wife and three other relatives, as well as the death of the local police chief.

It was the killing of Chief John B. Fallow, 48, that fanned the flames of mob violence in this quiet railroad town. Fallow had gone to arrest Dawkins for the wholesale murder of his kinfolk when he was shot and killed. As soon as the news of the chief's death was passed around, white citizens rushed home and brought out their weapons to join the state highway patrolmen and local officers hunting for the slayer. Although feeling ran high, no attempt was made to disturb the Negro section of Hamlet.

MAY 16 1942

Dawkins' first victims were Orenna, 18, his estranged wife; her sisters, Howard Quick, 20, and Katie Quick Davis, 21, and J. C. Quick, his nephew and 2-year-old son of Howard Quick. Another sister-in-law managed to escape and turned in the alarm which brought the police chief. Dawkins' one-year-old daughter was shot and wounded in the right hand and taken to the hospital for treatment.

The slaying was reported to be the outgrowth of trouble over getting groceries from the relief board. Dawkins, a carpenter, wanted his wife to return to him and quit taking relief.

All of the victims were killed with a single barreled shotgun. After the wholesale slayings, Dawkins fled into neighboring woods. Bloodhounds were secured and army planes from nearby Bennettsville flew low over the woods in an attempt to locate Dawkins.

The posse, which dwindled from 250 on Tuesday to about 100 Wednesday, was put on the trail by a Negro woman who told two of the scouting members that Dawkins was in her house. They called the others and trailed him to a swamp where he was surrounded. Dawkins twice shot at possemen, narrowly missing them. As he ran from the swamp and headed across a field, he called back that he would shoot anybody who got near him. When several persons fired at him, he stopped and drew a bead on the acting police chief, but the gun failed to fire. Patrolman Carpenter of Fayetteville, felled him with a 30-30 rifle, killing him instantly.

As Dawkins lay dead on the ground, virtually every member of the posse poured their fire into his body. When he was reached, he was found to have been riddled by more than 100 bullets and buckshot.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Posse Seeks Killer Of Wife, 3 Kinfolk And Police Chief

MAY 6 1942

Hamlet, N. C., May 5 (U.P.).—A 50-year-old Negro carpenter who had never been in serious trouble before was a hunted man tonight after he shot and killed his wife and three kinfolk and then killed Chief of Police John Fallaw, 38, today.

MAY 6 - 1942

A posse of [illegible] armed men searched through a swamp where Will Dawkins was believed hiding after he fatally wounded Fallaw when Fallaw and another officer attempted to arrest him for the shooting of Dawkins' wife, two of his sister-in-laws, and a child of one of the women with a shotgun.

Dawkins was separated from his 18-year-old wife, Orenna Quick Dawkins, and Negro neighbors said they believed today's trouble began when the carpenter went to his wife's house to try to persuade her to return to him. Besides the estranged wife, Dawkins killed her two sisters, Howard Quick, 20, and Katie Quick Davis, 21, and J. C. Quick, 2-year-old son of Howard Quick, police reported.

MAY 6 1942

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

POSSE OF 100 KILLS SLAYER OF 5 PERSONS

Man Riddled After Taking Lives Of Relatives; Police Chief

MAY 16 1942

HAMLET, N. C.—Fifty-year-old Will Dawkins, a carpenter, was shot to death by a posse of 100 armed men after being trapped in a wood near

here on May 6.

The posse's action came following Dawkins' alleged slaying of five persons including his 18-year-old wife, from whom he was estranged, two sisters-in-law, a nephew and the Hamlet Chief of Police John B. Fallaw on May

MAY 16 1942

The whereabouts of Dawkins, who had been hiding since the killings, was revealed to two volunteer searchers by a Negro woman who lived near an open field. She told them that Dawkins was hiding in her house.

After a posse of 100 including state highway patrolmen and Hamlet officers located Dawkins in the wood, "everyone who could, took a shot at him," it was reported by a member of the group.

Besides the chief of police, those killed were Mrs. Orenna Quick Dawkins, the wife; Miss Howard Quick, 20, and Mrs. Katie Quick Davis, 21, the sisters-in-law; and J. C. Quick, Miss Quick's two-year-old son.

Relatives Call "Suicide" of Philly Man, Lynching

MAY 30 1942

PHILADELPHIA

Although authorities said Monday that the death of Lebanon (Lebbie) Blackson, 46, whose body was found hanging from a tree in Fairmount Park early Saturday morning, is "a clear case of suicide," members of the family and several others have spiked the theory, expressing suspicion that Blackson met his death at the hands of a white mob.

There has been some fear of a major race riot, but heads of civic organizations and ministers throughout the city are probing the case and have urged citizens to refrain from any acts which may lead to serious consequences.

Blackson's body was discovered at about 8 a.m., dangling from a tree in plain view from the sidewalk, about 25 feet off the Boulevard Drive in Cobbs Creek Parkway, near Upland Street. The body bore no marks of violence and there were two notes in his pockets.

One read: "Goodbye all who wil be concerned. I am just a failure and a disgrace." The other spoke of "being in love with someone" he couldn't have. Both were signed "Leb."

Family's Theory

Members of Blackson's family have little faith in the suicide theory, leaning toward the belief that his death is connected with a fight a brother's daughters were involved in with two white girls and a woman on the day before.

Miss Eleanor Blackson, 19, faced a hearing on charges of assaulting a white woman who intervened in the argument between the girls on Saturday. Homer Blackson, of 7220 Saybrook Avenue, her father, did not know of his brother's death until he returned from the hearing. He immediately discredited the suicide theory.

Homer states that his brother was planning to go to Atlantic City to bring his wife to Philadelphia when last he saw him on Friday night. A sister, Mrs. Gertrude Lloyd of 2413 S. Seventy-eighth Street, with whom he lived,, also states that Blackson had planned to bring his wife here.

White Robed Figures

An AFRO reporter covering the story, found a motorist Monday night who declares that at about 2:45 a.m. Saturday, he drove past the spot where Blackson's body was found and observed a group of people clad in what he thought at the time were long dresses but "later realized were white robes similar to those worn by the Ku Klux Klan."

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Coroner's Jury Sees 2 Notes

JUN - 9 1942

Peace and tranquility reign in Paschall, Elmwood, Darby and all Southwest Philadelphia, today, for Negroes living in that area have been convinced that the infamous, blood-thirsty Ku Klux Klan is not on the march—that they are not likely to be set upon and lynched by a mob of hooded demons maurading in the dark of the night.

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Lebanon Allen Blackson, though he is dead, is responsible for the quietude which prevails in that widespread precinct. It was because of Blackson, who was found hanging from a tree in Cobbs Creek two weeks ago, that rumors of Ku Klux Klan atrocities and activities were circulated.

The rumors portraying Blackson as the victim of the Klan, hold that he was lynched after being set upon by a mob garbed in the regalia of the bloody Legion.

Coroner's Hearing Calm

On Monday, however, all reports that Blackson was brutally murdered by the Klan—or any other groups or persons—were blasted by a Coroner's jury in City Hall Annex, which ruled that Blackson met his death at his own hands; that he committed suicide!

The Coroner's jury reached the suicide verdict after the testimony of relatives of the man and the reading of an official report by Sergeant Robert B. Forgy, of the Homicide Squad; Detective Samuel Powell, of the 5th Detective Division, and Deputy Coroner Richard Byrd.

Detectives Forgy and Powell and Deputy Byrd conducted a thorough investigation in the case, and had Blackson been lynched would have proved it. But Blackson, according to their report, committed suicide.

Members of Blackson's family who seemed so certain last week that Blackson had been wilfully murdered by a gang of violent whites, either forgot their previous beliefs or were afraid to express them in Coroner's Court.

JUN - 9 1942

Don't Know a Thing

All said words to this effect: "I don't know a thing about it."

A special investigator for the Philadelphia Branch of the NAACP had been conducting a private probe for the Association. When questioned last week concerning the findings of the NAACP's detective, Theodore O. Spaulding said a final report had not be submitted to his office.

Spaulding intimated, however, that the investigator had uncovered no clues that would indicate Blackson had been lynched.

Detective Forgy said during the inquest that Blackson could easily have taken his own life. Near the tree from which the victim was found swinging police discovered two stumps which could have been used by the victim as a stoop to hang himself.

JUN 1942

Lost Salary

The police theory is that Blackson, after losing his week's salary of $40 in a dice game near the scene of the tragedy, went to the park and after brooding over his losses decided to take the easiest way out.

37o-1942

TEXAS

7008

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

Man Who Killed Bride's Slayer Is Acquitted

APR 1 - 1942

LUFKIN, TEXAS, March 31.—(AP)—Roy Morehouse, 26, who knifed to death in a crowded courtroom a negro on trial for the axe murder of Morehouse's 19-year-old bride, was acquitted today by a jury.

Morehouse killed Mott Flournory, 70, last Nov. 24 with a pocket knife.

Morehouse testified at his own trial that he saw Flournory grinning, and "I just don't remember what happened.

"I don't know whether or not I killed him," he continued. "It's hard to know that a man has done something to your folks that way and then to see him with a grin on his face."

The jury deliberated less than an hour before acquitting Morehouse, a warehouse employe.

Negro On Trial When Father Has A Dagger

By SIDNEY C. GILDERSLEEVE

BOSTON, Texas—In a courtroom which many say "was dominated by the mob spirit," Matt Williams, 23-year old Negro, who is alleged to have assaulted a [illegible]-year old white girl, Barbara Hibbs in Texarkana, July [illegible] was sentenced to death here Friday evening at 7:22 o'clock. The jury required only 34 minutes to return the death edict in the district court presided over by Judge N. L. Dalby.

Capacity Crowd Sees Long Dagger

A capacity crowd was on hand Thursday morning as the trial got under way and was ostensibly and excitedly stirred when Ranger Captain M. T. (Lone Wolf) Gonzales discovered a long dagger on W. L. Hibbs, father of the victim of the alleged assault, a fact which having been made of all persons admitted to the courtroom except those persons who were known to be in the courtroom on legitimate court business.

When the long dagger (knife) was pulled from under his shirt where he had concealed it in hope of not being observed, Hibbs trembled perceptibly but made no statement as to whether he had planned to make attack upon the defendant either in or out of the courtroom. Finding the long knife on Hibbs recalled the Lufkin court-killing case when Mat Flournoy was killed in open district court while on trial there last November for a crime which since, in the minds of many, it has been established he did not commit.

The trial got off to a slow start Thursday morning. The greater part of the morning session of the first day was taken up in motions by defense attorneys. The jury selected was completed at 11:55 Thursday just five minutes to noon. An air of indescribable tenseness pervaded the courtroom at all times during the trial of the apparently disinterested Negro defendant. Williams twiddled his fingers nervously while the chief of his defense counsel, W. N. Harkness, presented three motions—all of which were summarily overruled by Judge Dalby.

Claims Fair Trial Impossible

While the accused sat in the courtroom flanked by Texas Rangers, Harkness made a dramatic plea in the Negro's behalf, stating to the court what many thought was true, that public sentiment was so strong against the Negro in Bowie county, that it was utterly impossible to permit a fair trial. Harkness moved for a change of venue.

Harkness also claimed Judge Dalby's court had no jurisdiction, basing his contention upon the fact that the case had originally been transferred to Red River county, but those two motions were speedily denied by the court pointing out it had been reversed at the specific request of the people of the neighboring county.

Having failed in getting the court to see eye to eye with him on these two motions, Harkness finally resorted to a third move. That of obtaining a continuance of the case, for the purpose of permitting him to summon a witness whom the defense counsel claimed "was very material" to the case. This third motion was likewise overruled.

Taking precaution to prevent a recurrence of the Lufkin case, the only persons who escaped the thorough search which the Texas Rangers gave all individuals as they filed into the courtroom were the veniremen and officers. All spectators were ordered out of the courtroom when all seats had been filled.

Defendant Heavily Guarded

Evidently recalling also what happened at Texarkana a short while ago when a critically wounded Negro, Willie Vinson, was abducted from his basement cot in the Texarkana hospital, while groaning and begging for his life, was dragged through the streets of the city and lynched, Sheriff Watts had Williams heavily guarded.

The room in which the defendant was kept was guarded by three machine guns which were grimly conspicuous, and numerous rifles and tear gas guns. Eight Texas Rangers stood guard while Sheriff Watts of Bowie county and a guard of deputies and highway officers threw a strong cordon around the courtroom. Other officers were also stationed on the outside of the building.

Some claim that the presence of FBI men in nearby Texarkana who are allegedly making a thorough investigation of the recent Vinson Lynching was a flash in the minds of officers who had considerable to do with the heavy guard which was given Williams here in this little Bowie County town..

In addition to Harkness, the defendant's defense counsel consisted of Attorneys Herbert Line, Maxwell Welch and Stuart Nunn—all having been appointed by the court for the purpose of defending Williams.

Defendant Declares He Was Forced To Confess

On Friday, the second day of the tense trial, Matt Williams testified in the [illegible] Judicial District Court that officers had handcuffed him to a tree and then administered him an unmerciful and terrible beating, as he took the witness stand in his own behalf.

The defendant was placed on the witness stand by the chief of his defense counsel, Harkness, after he (Harkness) had sought vainly to prevent the introduction of the alleged confession of the defendant. Harkness argued against inclusion of the alleged confession, claiming the alleged confession was not admissable because it had been obtained under duress, threat, intimidation and suffering occasioned by being beaten before the defendant had been before a magistrate. He (Harkness) cited how the defendant had been spirited out of Bowie county before given an alleged confession was [illegible]ed.

Defendant Details Brutal Treatment

Williams testified that he was arrested July 4 by Constable R. R. Taylor; that he was thereafter taken to Texas Ranger Stanley's Farm near Clarksville; that he was then handcuffed to a tree and given a terrible beating until he confessed the crime "to keep them from killing me."

In support of his statement about being terribly beaten, the defendant exhibited scars on his arms which he told his defense counsel had been inflicted by the officers who allegedly beat him. Officers denied they beat the defendant.

Meantime, Ranger Captain M. T. Gonzales who Thursday, discovered the long dagger on the father of the alleged victim, testified that some of the scars on the Negro's arms could have been caused by the handcuffs which the Ranger Captain had placed on him while he (the defendant) was in his custody.) On the contrary, Dr. J. R. McGee, New Boston physician, on being subpoenaed ,examined the defendant in a room adjoining the courtroom. He (Dr. McGee) later testified that in his opinion, the scars were "old [illegible]

Meantime, running true to what was generally expected: Another Negro [illegible] the death sentence Friday night for a crime which many still believe he did not commit. But Texas and Southern justice have spoken. Williams will likely burn in the electric chair.

Four Witnesses Testify Williams Was With Them At Time Of Alleged Crime

The death sentenced meted to Williams for a crime he swears he did not commit stands out in bold relief and sharp contrast to his own testimony as well as that of four other Negro witnesses from nearby Texarkana who took the witness stand, braved the danger which might ensue from such steps, and courageously testified that they knew Williams was innocent of the crime for which he was being tried.

The four Negro witnesses from nearby Texarkana were: Arnet Miller, proprietor of the Little Green Hornet cafe; Jack Williams, who testified Matt Williams had slept at his house on the night of July 2, having gone there with him (Jack Williams) from the Little Green Hornet cafe; Frank Raymon and a Negro girl with whom the defendant kept company who was merely referred to as "Tempie." Miller, the cafe proprietor, testified that the defendant and "Tempie" remained at his place of business until 11:30 o'clock on the night of the alleged attack. Frank Ryamer and the Negro girl, "Tempie," offered corresponding alibis for the defense of the defendant.

Counsel for the Negro defendant reminded the jurors that the case was being tried on "circumstantial evidence." Defense counsel cited testimony of the mother of the alleged victim that Matt Williams was one of two Negroes who, on the day previous to the assault, had mowed the Hibbs lawn. Defense counsel inquired as to the possibility that the attack could have been made by the person who helped the defendant mow the lawn at the Hibbs home.

The death sentence by the jurors shows they evidently discarded the testimony of the defendant as well as that of the four defense witnesses who supported his contention.

Bearded White Attacker

Officers combed the area around Maud during the time Matt Williams was being tried for his life searching for "a bearded, maggle-toothed" white man accused of criminally attacking the white girl. "Their efforts proved futile" after an all-night search.

In strange contrast to the capture of the Negro defendant Matt Williams, and by still other coincidence, the bearded white attacker committed the criminal assault upon a 15-year old white girl employe in an ice cream parlor at nearby Maud, Texas, in Bowie County, as Williams was being tried.

Courtroom Murderer "Insane" Jury Sets White Killer Free

APR 1 3 1942

LUFKIN, Texas—Murder in a courthouse received the accolade of a jury here this past week when Roy Morehouse, 26, white, who last November deliberately murdered a prisoner in a crowded coutoom, was set free by the jury after deliberating for an hour.

APR 1 1 1942

Morehouse, the jury said, was "not guilty by reason of temporary insanity." The verdict was greeted with whoops and cheers by the white spectators who filled the courtroom from wall to wall.

At the time of his death, Matt Flournoy, a 70-year-old farmer, was being tried for the axe murder of Morehouse wife found dead in her home, Flournoy was acquitted in a week.

APR 1 1942

During the trial Morehouse sneaked up behind the aged suspect, reached over his shoulder, stabbing him in the chest. The aged man died almost instantly. Morehouse was later freed on a bond of $5,000 signed by prominent citizens of the town, including the mayor.

The Lufkin mudrer was similar to a killing in Conroe during the past year, when another Negro was shot to death while on trial for his life.

370-1942

VIRGINIA

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JAMES H. HUBERT TELLS OF ANOTHER "LEGAL LYNCHING" OF A NEGRO IN VIRGINIA

NOV 7 - 1942

By JAMES H. HUBERT

GLOUCESTER, Va.—Being tipped off that a Negro boy—Russell Newcom, age 15—was being held here in jail awaiting trial for attempted rape of a young white girl, I hurried from New York to be present for the trial. There had been rumors that a lynching might occur. Having never visited the scene of an expected or probable mob performance, I thought it would be interesting to go around and make a check on attitudes and tendencies.

Arriving first in Gloucester, I ascertained whether it might be safe to interview officials and other persons of King Queen County—where the incident occurred—who might be "in the know." I was informed that threats of violence had been made by relatives of the girl. On the 22nd of August, Sarah Hobson, age ten, white girl of Bluefield, W. Va., who was camping with her parents near the boys' home, was riding her bike near the entrance to the camp. Russell approached her, asked her name and asked for a ride on her bike. He was also accused of placing his hands on the handle bar of the bike, and the other on the girl's wrist. At the sight of a passing auto the boy was reported to have run from the scene of the "crime." When the father heard of this, he became hysterical, called the sheriff, who brought Russell to the home of the girl for questioning. Testimony showed that the commonwealth attorney, who was also present, attempted to wring from the boy a confession of guilt, and that no member of the family was admitted to this grilling. In court, Russell admitted asking the girl for a ride, but denied, again and again, that he had any intent to harm the child. Asked if it were not true that "he liked little white girls," replied that he "liked all people."

I discussed this case with the presiding judge, the commonwealth attorney, the attorney for the defense, and dozens of interested persons, both Negro and white. During the noon recess, when the jury was at lunch, I talked at length with Justice J. Douglass Mitchell, the presiding judge. I got the distinct impression that he did not himself believe the lad guilty. That the jury would find him guilty, he seemed never to doubt. Even the (white) attorney for the defense predicted that the jury would find him guilty, in spite of his innocence, "because" as he put it "public sentiment would stand for nothing less." So Russell escaped hanging, and received instead a sentence of three years in the state penitentiary.

Calls Conviction Legal Lynching

NOV 7 - 1942

T. C. Walker, prominent Negro attorney of Gloucester, who was present, but did not participate in the trial, called it a "judicial lynching." After the trial he told the judge as much. When the judget asked my opinion, I told him, that I got the impression throughout the trial, that the Sate of Virginia rather than this Negro lad was being tried; that if it had been a white boy, the case would never have reached court. There was no question but that he was made to pay the penalty of being black, and for forgetting his race long enough to presume to touch the property and person of a white female. The judge and jury were saying to the Negroes of Virginia in this decision: "Let Negroes never forget their place, and their limitations."

Following the passing of sentence, Judge Mitchell asked the father of the girl—a Baptist minister of West Virginia, if he cared to make any statement. Rarely have I ever heard a "finer" sermon on race relations. He has always loved Negroes; when a boy he even played with them. "Be it far from me to wish to do harm to this unfortunate Negro lad—" he said "but our womanhood must be protected, at all costs." So he was there as a matter of duty, to press the case.

NOV 7 - 1942

I left the King and Queen court house wondering! I asked myself in how many communities of the South could this have happened without a lynching? The two Mississippi boys were lynched for less. And I asked myself just why something isn't done to prevent this from happpening? The more I thought of it, te more I seemed to be convinced that the only real way to guard against mob voilence is perhaps, to make the community "lynch-proof." In the court yard at King-Queen. Negroes and whites mingle together, discussed the trial and other matters of common interest. There seemed no desire on the part of anybody to commit violence. Bad as was this verdict, I asked many citizens why there had been no attempt at lynching, as had been reported. The only threat, according to accepted testimony, came from relatives in West Virginia. But they seem to have cooled off, since no encouragement came from the county. In fact, there were those who told the West Virginia "foreigners" to mind their own biz, and not try to stir up trouble in their county.

In all my conferences with representative whites of Gloucester and surrounding counties, tribute was paid to the untiring services of Thomas C. Walker, in his effort to cultivate among them a greater respect and esteem for the rights of Negroes, and a fair and equal trial in the courts of justice. "If one man can do so much," white citizen of these rural comganization start a concerted campaign toward the cultivation of the respect and esteem of these people who are the powers that be in these communities. Yes why? I asked the N. A. A. C. P., representatives why they were not interested in this case. They assured me that until something "happened" the case did not come within the framework of their organization. So we are to go on—it seems to me—locking the stable after the horse is stolen. Had this lad been mobbed, papers throughout the country would have headlined another lynching, holding up the state of Virginia to ridicule and shame. If "an ounce of prevention is still worth a pound of cure," munities should take heed. than call conferences and conduct investigations? The N. A. A. C. P. would have had investigators on the scene finding out why the authorities couldn't or wouldn't identify the mo...

NOV 7 - 1942

Returning to Gloucester, I read in the Norfolk Journal and Guide that the conference of Negro leaders of the South at Durham last week, passed unanimously a resolution "expressing their disapproval of the lynching of three persons in Mississippi, two of whom were 14 year old Negro boys." It must have taken great courage on the part of these educators and statesmen, to go that far, and I take consolation in the fact, that now that this conference of Negro has acted, every white citizen of these rural communities should take heed.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Fugitive's Death Laid To Heart Attack

DEC 19 1942

Danville, Va., Dec. 18 (AP).—Dr. H. H. Hammer, Pittsylvania County coroner, said Sam Valentine, Negro, died of a heart attack before discovery of his body yesterday by a posse which had sought him since Monday as the slayer of F. C. Beverley, Pittsylvania farmer.

An empty whisky bottle, found beside the body, had first raised the question in officers' minds as to whether Valentine had taken poison, but Dr. Hammer said the Negro apparently had it for a water bottle. The physician said Valentine had died of a "plain and simple heart attack."

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Va. Posse Finds Fugitive's Body In Woods Near Slaying Scene

DEC 18 1942

Danville, Va., Dec. 17.—Samuel Valentine, Negro, charged with killing F. C. Beverley, Whitemell planter on Monday was found dead near noon today in a belt of woods three-quarters mile from the scene of the crime.

Four possemen found him. His body was still warm and at his side was a bottle apparently containing poison. A cordon was formed around the body and Sheriff Archer Overbey and Commonwealth's Attorney Joseph Whitehead were sent for.

DEC 18 1942

Walter P. Tudor, one of the possemen who led the final close-in on the belt woods where Valentine was believed to be hiding, said that there was a half-healed wound through the muscles of the right arm, this apparently being sustained when Mr. Beverley defended himself with his revolver.

Tudor, one of the first to examine the body, said the feet and hands were cold but the body warm. "I don't think he had been dead more than 20 minutes," he said.

Tudor said that Valentine was clothed in fresh overalls and clean underwear. "It looked as though he must have been harbored because he could not have looked that clean after being in the woods for three nights and three days," he said.

DEC 18 1942

Asked what the bottle contained, Tudor said, "it was an empty whisky bottle but what was in it I do not know. We are holding it for the coroner."

Valentine had at his side a .410 gauge loaded shotgun.

The body was removed to Chatham after the coroner had completed his inquest.